Daily Report

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FBIS-EEU-92-173 *4 September 1992*

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NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

NOTICE TO READERS: Reportage on the 10th Nonaligned Movement Summit, held in Jakarta, Indonesia, from 1-6 September, will be published in a series of special East Asia DAILY REPORT supplements.

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International Affairs

TANJUG reports that the negotiating process within the Conference on Yugoslavia, held under UN and EC sponsorship, began in Geneva on 3 September. Cyrus Vance, the chief UN envoy, commented on the talks, saying: "It will be a long and very hard road. Our first objective must be to concentrate on what is happening in Bosnia-Hercegovina," AFP reports.

Yugoslavia

Federal—TANJUG reports that Prime Minister Milan Panic, when asked during a news conference in Belgrade about the upcoming no-confidence vote in the Federal Assembly, said he had "no intention" of defending himself, but would "attack with the truth." He added: "We have had enough lies, jokes, and swindles. We have to see our reflection in the mirror and come to terms with who and what we are, so we do not pretend that we are the best and infallible."

Bosnia-Hercegovina

An Italian transport plane, part of the UNPROFOR humanitarian airlift, crashed en route to Sarajevo, and four crewmembers were killed. There were reports that the plane was shot down, but UN officials said only that the cause of the crash was under investigation. AFP reports that four U.S. helicopters "came under small arms fire" while trying to reach the wreckage.

Czechoslovakia

The Federal Cabinet approved a bill on dissolution of the Czechoslovak Federation. CSTK reports that "the bill provides for the termination of the Federation either by a declaration of the Federal Assembly (parliament), by an agreement between the two republics' parliaments, by a referendum called on the basis of the Federal, Czech and Slovak constitutional laws, or by the withdrawal of one of the republics from the Federation."

Hungary

MTI reports that the government "unanimously" adopted a statement in which it stated: "The government is convinced that the decisive majority of Hungarian public opinion see with indignation and aversion the increasingly harsh rhetoric and actions in domestic public life, and poltical hysteria." The statement concludes: "It is the government's conviction that all political forces should make efforts towards easing confrontation and mitigating the storms of public life."

Romania

At the close of talks between Foreign Minister Adrian Nastase and Ukraine Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko, the two ministers "signed two important documents on the development of the ties between Romania and Ukraine, namely an agreement on the cooperation in the fields of culture, science and education, and the consular convention," ROMPRES reports. Afterwards, "they referred to the importance of this first visit of an Ukrainian foreign minister to Romania and expressed their hope that it would mark a decisive step in the positive evolution of the Romanian-Ukrainian ties."

Poland

Josef Zieleniec, international relations minister for the Czech Republic, held talks with Foreign Affairs Minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski and Prime Minister Hanna Suchocka, PAP reports. Following his meeting with Suchocka, Zieleniec said: "We plan for these direct relations to develop," and he noted: "the situation is very complicated and we must talk to each other."

Talks on Yugoslavia Begin in Geneva

LD0309174992 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1647 GMT 3 Sep 92

["Pool" item]

[Text] Geneva, September 3 (TANJUG)—The negotiating process within the international Conference on Yugoslavia, held under U.N.- E.C. aegis, opened in Geneva on Thursday [3 September].

A conference spokesman said at Geneva's Palais des Nations that the process would be headed by the steering committee, which was constituted on Thursday morning and is chaired by Cyrus Vance, on behalf of the U.N., and Lord David Owen, on behalf of the E.C.

The 17-member steering committee includes three representatives of the E.C. (Great Britain, Portugal and Denmark), three representatives of the CSCE (Czechoslovakia, Sweden and Germany), and representatives of Romania and Italy as "Yugoslav neighbours." The Islamic community is represented by a delegate of Senegal. All five permanent U.N. Security Council members are also represented in the steering committee. The chairman of the previous, E.C. Conference on Yugoslavia, Lord Carrington, is also taking part in the work of the international conference's steering committee in a private capacity.

The two steering committee's co-chairmen—former U.S. State Secretary Vance and one-time British Foreign Secretary Owen—arrived in Geneva on Thursday morning.

Vance said on arriving in Geneva that the conference wants to put an end to the tragic civil war in the former Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina. Vance said the steering committee would work unremittingly for an end to the conflict but the committee co-chairmen and members were "under no illusion as to the difficulties we are going to face."

Lord Owen said he was absolutely convinced the international conference on Yugoslavia would be successful.

The session at which the steering committee was constituted was held behind closed doors. It was disclosed only that both co-chairmen of the steering committee and the chairmen of the committee's six working groups spoke at the session. The complex and lengthy negotiatins in the working groups will begin next Monday.

The six working groups—for Bosnia-Hercegovina, humanitarian issues, ethnic and national communities and minorities, succession issues, economic issues and confidence- and security-building and verification measures—are to be constituted on Friday.

Cochairmen Comment

AU0309110792 Paris AFP in English 1045 GMT 3 Sep 92

[Excerpts] Geneva, Sept 3 (AFP)—U.N. and European Community diplomats opened a meeting on the Yugoslav conflict here Thursday [3 September], vowing to pursue efforts to end the bloodshed in Bosnia-Hercegovina but conceding the difficulty of their task.

Cyrus Vance, chief U.N. envoy on Yugoslavia, and Lord David Owen, a former British foreign secretary representing the European Community (E.C.), jointly chaired this first meeting of the steering committee of the permanent conference set up at the London Conference on Yugoslavia last week. [passage omitted]

Vance said on arrival at Geneva airport from New York that he had "no illusions" over the length and difficulty of the peace negotiations.

"It will be a long and very hard road. Our first objective must be to concentrate on what is happening in Bosnia-Hercegovina," he said, adding that a "key issue is getting humanitarian aid promptly," and "the overall task is a comprehensive political settlement."

At the meeting's opening, Lord Owen acknowledged that the peace efforts would involve a "very difficult, time consuming and detailed process." But he said "principles were established at the London conference which we are determined to be maintained, the commitments undertaken by the parties which we are determined would be upheld."

"It is in that spirit we certainly are going through this conference," according to Lord Owen, who earlier said: "We are absolutely confident that the partnership between the E.C and the U.N. will be successful."

Vance, a former U.S. secretary of state, is also due to meet Thursday with Sadako Ogata, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees.

He told the conference that "what was previously done was a sort of Chinese wall," with the U.N. handling peacekeeping and the E.C. handling "peace building," but "now this has been brought together."

The 17-member steering committee could also meet again on Friday if necessary, to organise its work and the composition of the six working groups set up in London. The working group chairmen will eventually sit with representatives of the various communities from the former Yugoslavia. The groups will discuss humanitarian issues, confidence-building measures, Bosnia-Hercegovina, minorities, economic recovery and the problems of succession thrown up by the break-up of Yugoslavia.

Popular Alliance Elects Driza Chairman

AU0309155692 Tirana ATA in English 1203 GMT 3 Sep 92

[Text] Tirana, September 3 (ATA)—The newspaper DIELLI, organ of the Albanian Popular League Party, reports in its latest issue that the first assembly of this party convened.

Mr. Xhemal Borova, secretary general of the party, laid emphasis in his speech on the imperative need of reorganizing the party, so as to suit the current circumstances. Our party, he said, powerfully supports the reform launched by the Meksi government.

Different speakers laid the stress on the need of elaborating a current and perspective strategy which will serve not merely the party interests, but the sacred cause of the nation in all the aspects. They said that the ranks of this party have increased recently. The Roms' Association adheres in this party, at a time when the Woman's and Youth Forums as well operate. As for the foreign policy, the speakers said that this party is for an open foreign policy. It is for an Albanian state in the ethnic borders unjustly truncated by history.

A group of delegates proposed to change the name of the party from People's League into People's Party. Mr. Bashkim Driza was elected chairman of the People's Party.

Article Reviews Economic Situation

AU0309131292 Tirana RILINDJA DEMOKRATIKE in Albanian 4 Aug 92 pp 1, 4

[First of two installments of Rakip Sulce article: "It Is the Reality - Pains, Hopes," prepared on the basis of the report "Short-Term Strategy and the Measures To Apply the Economic Reform Program (Second Half of 1992)" presented to the People's Assembly on 6 August by Economy and Finance Minister Genc Ruli]

[Text]

Budgetary Policy

As it was stressed, this policy constitutes the main course in the short-term strategy of the Meksi government.

What is the present?

—Because of the lack of specificity in the Law on Enterprises and of the anarchist concept of their autonomy, the enterprises have not regularly paid off their obligations toward the state. Moreover, they either do not present the necessary accounting to reflect their true incomes or they present them with falsifications. This is a holdover from the past.

—The state budget expenses have so far resisted a considerable amount of the payment for the 80 percent law, a real source of social assistance these two past years.

—The abusive practice of the latest months, in which the Law on Enterprises allowed the increase of wages without criteria, thus burdening the production expenses, and the form of distributing realized profits created many problems in further increasing prices. Of course, in a market like ours, in which full competition is lacking and offers are relatively small against tenders, the creation of such discrepancies in the level of incomes from this way of distributing dividends and wages will skew the market toward the few consumers able to pay such high prices. Consequently, this difference in the level of wages for civil employees would give birth to social disturbances. This would also create problems in being unable to control the inflation.

—Since January, the wages have been increased without being calibrated at all with increased production and efficiency in the enterprises. The uncontrolled right of the enterprises to establish wages themselves was abusive. The enterprises have come to that point in determining such wages as giving 35,000 leks monthly to the cleaning lady and 75,000 to the director, without making any qualitative improvement in their work. In several sectors, this increase that is based on only one person further threatens the general situation, because it is known that every 100 leks unjustly received by one individual endanger insurance of the minimal standard of living for every unemployed, poor, or retired person.

—The anti-economic and speculative distribution of dividends has also been unjust. There have been cases when 300,000 leks or more over a three-month period has been distributed from enterprise dividends, without first paying taxes and other debts, to employees in the form of 50,000-lek monthly payments.

This was an abuse, in which certain social groups and segments unjustly increased their incomes by profiting from the monopoly position of the sectors in which they work at the expense of the poverty and impossibility of rest of the population, to whom in the long run something from the monopoly situation in these sectors belongs.

The state budget and assets experienced a heavy blow from the stability government decision, made due to pressure from the masses, "on the duties and rights of the National Privatization Agency," which did not clearly define the ways and measures "to liberalize the prices" of industrial and other assets that will be privatized. State property was sold, contemptuously, for nothing. Meanwhile, very little of the revenues derived from the sales was deposited in the state budget. From the liberalization of the prices of industrial assets without first inventorying them, the state budget lost hundreds of millions [currency not specified], which went into the

pockets of managers, storekeepers, sellers of trade enterprises, etc., and other speculators. This is seen clearly now the corruption evidenced by the State Control Commission.

—During the end of the year, we have had problems in the process of administering foreign aid and loans and collecting revenue through selling them. Thus, the state treasury has received no leks from the selling of the goods ensured with the Turkish and Italian credits, where 65-70 percent of the revenue ensured from selling foodstuffs have been deposited. Moreover, much of this aid was sold speculatively under liberalized prices.

As a result of all this, the state budget for 1992 shows a deficit four times greater than that for 1991.

Reminder:

As we have stressed, today it is as if we have experienced the destruction of a war, perhaps greater than that of World War II. It is true that at that time the communists inherited an Albania ruined by the war, but they had the basic resources to begin the so-called reconstruction of the country. Considering our renowned businessmen and property owners, we were the country with the greatest gold reserves in the Balkans. The violent confiscation of this property and of all the other movable assets and private real estate capital, together with the property inherited from the national patrimony, gave the communists colossal assets in hand.

What about us today? What are we starting the revival of Albania with? As we see: a treasury looted and abused by the communists, an asphyxiated budget, an inherited debt of $600 million, with nothing, up to the point, as an expression states, that we do not have even lice...

After World War II, the communists really inherited a destroyed Albania but with a full treasury. Today, they are leaving Albania to the democratic government not only destroyed but with not a farthing, that is, twice destroyed. Albanian people, do not forget this!

Environmental Pollution Presents National Problem

AU0309155092 Tirana ATA in English 0821 GMT 3 Sep 92

[Text] Tirana, September 3 (ATA)—In the most part of the industrial objects built in Albania, the environmental protection is not taken into account. Especially over the 60s and 80s, factories, plants, and combines were built up with an outdated technology and generally without installations to avoid the pollution discharge. As a result in certain regions or cities, problems emerged especially due to the gas waste. In Kukes, Rubik, Lac, Fier, and Elbasan, the spectre of pollution of the surface waters was expanded and deepened, especially that of rivers due to the industrial waste.

A similar situation is noted also in the treatment of the flora and fauna in general as well as of the forests in particular. Considering the timber material as a priority fire wood for heating in cities and countrysides, over 1.5 million cubic metres are used every day. Hence woods are systematically overexploited heading to a negative ratio in view of cutting and growing which is 3:1. The breaking of virgin lands, the massive deforestation, terracing, and devastation of pastures not only damaged the fauna but they were doubled also with the land's erosion. In general the Albanian coast is pure, with trifling exceptions in the Bay of Durres and Vlore and some river outfall. Now in the conditions of the market economy, new economic and social activities are carried out. Perspectives are opened to tourism, light and food industry, the sea oil and gas drillings. But, is the environmental administration controlled in this development?

Proceeding from the problems our country is faced with today and in order to precede the new economic and social developments, the chairman of the Committee for Environmental Protection, Lirim Selfo said to ATA reporter, we have engaged in preparing the general law on protecting the environment and studying to draft the respective administrative structures from the center to the base. To this end we bear in mind the particularity of our country as well as legislations of some European countries. We intend to harmonize the economic developments with the environmental preservation and protection.

Zhivkov Sentenced to 7 Years in Jail

AU0409095192 Sofia Khristo Botev Radio Network in Bulgarian 0930 GMT 4 Sep 92

[Text] The first news item, dear listeners, is that the seven-member bench of the Supreme Court, under the chairmanship of Stefanka Stoyanova, today sentenced the two defendants in Case No. 1, Todor Zhivkov and Milko Balev.

The sentences are seven years in prison for Todor Zhivkov and two years for Milko Balev. Both will serve their sentences in the first instance under general prison conditions. Milko Balev was also fined 3,000 leva. Furthermore, Todor Zhivkov has to pay the state 21,010,380 leva, together with legal interest calculated as of 10 November 1989 and a state fee of 840,415 leva 20 stotinki. Milko Balev must repay the monetary equivalent of 9,000 dollars—17,226 leva. [figures as heard]

Both defendants have to repay the Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP] Supreme Council 20,000 leva plus legal interest calculated from 26 February 1986, together with a state fee of 800 leva.

As for court costs connected with the trial, Todor Zhivkov has to contribute 7,200 leva, and Milko Balev, 150 leva.

The two defendants will remain under house arrest until the verdict comes into force. A 14-day period is allowed for submitting appeals against the sentences to a five-member bench of the Supreme Court.

Zhelev Departs; 'Not Worried' by Coup Rumors

AU0309173992 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 1630 GMT 3 Sep 92

[Text] President Zhelyu Zhelev today departed for Mainz, Germany, where he will attend the congress of the Liberal International. Two representatives of the Radical-Democratic Party, Asparukh Panov and Jose Cannetti, also left with him. Our reporter, Maria Stefanova, was at Sofia Airport.

[Begin recording] [Stefanova] The Radical-Democratic Party has been a member of the Liberal International since 1991. Dr. Zhelyu Zhelev was also invited to deliver an address at this year's conference. He is expected to be received as an individual member of the Liberal International. Dr. Zhelev is expected to take the floor during tomorrow's discussion on liberalism in Central and East Europe with an address on the development of reform in Bulgaria.

At Sofia Airport, the Republic's president stated that he is not worried about leaving the country because there is no reason to believe in rumors of an allegedly alarming situation in Bulgaria. The subject of liberalism, however, is very closely related to our reform.

The following is the essence of Dr. Zhelev's statement before his departure:

[Zhelev] We in Bulgaria intend to promote a liberal reform, and we are doing so. I am convinced that the methods through which the economic reform is being accomplished are liberal. Therefore, we are not expecting to be confronted with a totally new, unknown subject. [end recording]

Dimitrov Meets With Army Chief on Coup Rumors

AU0309183992 Sofia BTA in English 1818 GMT 3 Sep 92

[Text] Sofia, September 3 (BTA)—"This is an attempt to hit the government and parliament and is the work of certain forces which cannot bear political responsibility and therefore seek chaos," Prime Minister Filip Dimitrov told the press after he met the chief of General Staff of the Bulgarian Army, Colonel General Lyuben Petrov today to discuss the recent rumours of a military coup.

The prime minister believes the government's opponents are weak and have no scope for action. The existence of an abundant yellow press, however, gives them an opportunity for such actions. A campaign which is now underway targets institutions rather than individuals, Mr. Dimitrov said. The prime minister said he will request to meet President Zhelev to discuss this issue.

Dimitrov: Coup Rumors Seek 'To Create Chaos'

AU0409074092 Sofia BTA in English 2110 GMT 3 Sep 92

[Text] Sofia, September 3 (BTA)—"The rumours of a coup against the president show the latest attack on the government and on parliament in the long run," Prime Minister Filip Dimitrov said in a televised interview this night. He believes these rumours have been circulated to create chaos and turmoil. The prime minister emphasized in his interview that Bulgarian institution can hardly be shaken by means of "similar nasty stories."

Asked about the forces which he said seek to create chaos, the premier explained that these are "forces connected to the dirty business, people with unsatisfied political ambitions whose pretensions to establish complete control over things had failed, they represent the most conservative circles of the past connected with the former special-purpose structures."

"Following President Zhelev's criticism towards the government stated in his televised interview last Sunday [30 August], these forces smelled that new space was being opened which they would liked to occupy," the premier said.

Mr. Filip Dimitrov said he intends to hold talks with the president. President Zhelev, who left Bulgaria today to attend the congress of the Liberal International in Mainz, stated upon his departure that the situation in this country is calm. "Certain quarters however seek panic and trouble," he added.

In a letter received at BTA, Vice President Mrs. Blaga Dimitrova denies the allegations released in today's issues of the PODKREPA and DUMA dailies that certain quarters inside the Union of Democratic Forces had persuaded her not to impede this operation. "I openly declare that nobody has ever mentioned similar nonsense to me," Mrs. Blaga Dimitrova writes in her letter. She calls for the man who has circulated this "information" to be brought to trial. She believes it is the duty of honest journalists to name him, otherwise they will also be held responsible before the law.

Clergy Meet To Heal 'Rift' in Orthodox Church

AU0309120492 Sofia BTA in English 1112 GMT 3 Sep 92

["On the Rift in the Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Church"—BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, September 3 (BTA)—A church convention on the rift in the Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Church began in Sofia Metropolitanate today. The convention, organized by the Movement for Unity of the Bulgarian Church, is attended by clergymen from across the country.

A two-week moratorium will be imposed on police aid to the church leadership in the use of buildings and other property, a source of the Ministry of the Interior said last night. This is the response of the Prosecutor General's Office to a request by an initiative group consisting of Ginyo Ganev, deputy chairman of the previous parliament, Associate Professor Dimitur Kirov, vice dean of the Theological Faculty, and National Television Chief Asen Agov. The initiative group is holding consultations on future negotiations for the overcoming of the rift in the church. The group claims its actions have been prompted by noble motives. The moratorium enters into force on September 4.

The main opponents in the church conflict are Bishop Khristofor Subev, advocating church reforms, and Bishop Neofit, who is close to Patriarch Maksim. The patriarch has often been criticized that several decades ago he was elected with the approval of the communist regime and that he allowed the communist regime and the law-enforcement authorities to interfere in the affairs of the church institutions. The patriarch enjoyed numerous privileges in Zhivkov's time, including a Mercedes, a privilege to which only top party and state leaders were entitled.

The Patriarch's Office announced yesterday that Khristofor Subev will be excommunicated. In this connection the TRUD daily quoted a letter of the World Council of Churches to Patriarch Maksim, expressing "sympathy for the Bulgarian Church and the Bulgarian People." At a news conference last Sunday President Zhelev also criticized the cabinet for taking sides in the church rift.

According to the Supreme Council of the Bulgarian Socialist Party, the rift in the church was caused by Bishop Khristofor Subev. In a declaration last night the Supreme Council called on the public to condemn the intervention of lay authorities in church affairs.

According to Metodi Spasov, director of the Directorate for Religious Faiths with the Council of Ministers, the Holy Synod headed by Patriarch Maksim is illegitimate because it was not elected as the statute of the Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Church requires. The decommunization of the Bulgarian Church will be effected when a convention of clergy and laity, which is being prepared, elects a new synod, Mr. Spasov says in an interview for Radio Free Europe. Metodi Spasov is the target of criticism, allegations and insinuations by opponents of church reforms and by Khristofor Subev's opponents.

Here is the view of Prof. Radko Poptodorov, rector of the seminary: "The decommunization of the church will bring about reconciliation. It is a shame for the church to bow to communist dictates. It is a shame for an atheist to don a cassock...."

Priests Demand Closure of Religious Directorate

AU0309160092 Sofia BTA in English 1403 GMT 3 Sep 92

[Text] Sofia, September 3 (BTA)—One hundred and fifty Bulgarian priests today insisted on the closing down of the Directorate for Religious Faiths with the Council of Ministers. They held a clergymen's convention at the Sofia Metropolitanate to discuss the rift in the Bulgarian Orthodox Church. Their convention was called on the initiative of the Priests' Movement for Unity in the Bulgarian Orthodox Church, but it was also attended by several metropolitans who are members of the Holy Synod headed by Patriarch Maksim.

The priests adopted a declaration stressing that they firmly back the decision of the Convention of Hierarchs on July 22, 1992, which demoted the breakaway prelates and excommunicated Bishop Khristofor of Makariopol, MP [member of parliament] and chairman of the National Assembly Committee on Religious Faiths. Until several months ago he was in the leadership of the ruling Union of Democratic Forces.

The Priests' Movement for Unity in the Orthodox Church insists on a closure of the Directorate for Religious Faiths with the Council of Ministers, on the invalidation of all its acts as unlawful and on calling to account its director Metodi Spasov. The document demands that Bishop Khristofor be stripped of his MP's immunity and be dismissed from the chairmanship of the Parliamentary Committee on Religious Faiths.

After the convention, the clergymen and the prelates led by Patriarch Maksim marched in a procession to the Office of the President, the Council of Ministers and the National Assembly where they handed in their declaration.

Dimitrov Meets With Priests on Church Conflict

AU0309183692 Sofia BTA in English
1715 GMT 3 Sep 92

[Text] Sofia, September 3 (BTA)—"Let us give the representatives of the contending sides in the church a chance to hear each other and may the Lord grant them enough sound reason to get out of this situation," Prime Minister Filip Dimitrov said today, accepting the declaration of the priests' Movement for Unity of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church, which insists on the eviction of the supporters of Metropolitan Pimen's Holy Synod from the Holy Synod headquarters and the seminary and for a disbandment of the Directorate for Religious Faiths with the Council of Ministers.

"I will consider your demands and I will see which lies within the competence of the executive branch, but at this point it seems to me that you want something more than just to see who is right and who is wrong," Mr. Dimitrov told a group of clergymen. He called on the priests to think about the future of the church and to give the contending sides a chance to reach a decision. The prime minister promised to do everything possible for an earlier settlement of the problems in the Bulgarian Orthodox Church.

While Mr. Filip Dimitrov was meeting with representatives of the movement, clergymen including Patriarch Maksim were singing liturgical chants in front of the Council of Ministers building.

After the meeting at the Council of Ministers, the Rev. Spasov told a BTA reporter that he was not particularly satisfied with the prime minister's statement.

Eskenazi Said To Seek Prime Minister's Post

AU0309185692 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian
29 Aug 92 p 1

["DUMA PRESS" report: "Ilko Eskenazi May Take the Prime Minister's Seat"]

[Text] Recently, Deputy Prime Minister Ilko Eskenazi has been discreetly distancing himself from Prime Minister Filip Dimitrov and Finance Minister Ivan Kostov, as he is preparing to take the prime minister's chair, according to informed sources who are in the picture regarding the plans for a cabinet shuffle. The leaders of the Rights and Freedoms Movement [DPS] have already been sounded out on this issue, but it is said that they still have to form their final opinion. This time Ahmed Dogan's party reportedly plans to apply very strong pressure when a new government is formed, but has decided to act much more carefully and without haste.

Dimitur Ludzhev's name allegedly no longer figures in the list of potential ministers. The ruling coalition's professional politicians and their allies unanimously agree that the former defense minister should be kept in deep reserve. Ludzhev is supposed to be brought into the frontline only in an extreme emergency, if the Union of Democratic Forces [SDS] completely loses its authority. For the moment, they have left him to work on his image as a "clean" politician, as long as he has no work to do.

The forthcoming SDS (Democrats) National Conference is supposed to decide on the final candidates for the new cabinet. Something like a plenum of the former Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee will be held on 18 September, according to unprejudiced observers with fresh memories. Following the example of the former leading party, only three to seven representatives of each of the SDS parties and movements are to be invited to attend the conference.

In addition, the SDS (Democrats) Coordinating Council is claimed to have decided in advance to make the decisions of the September forum binding on all the political forces in the coalition. SDS supporters recall that it was not so long ago that such questions were put to the vote at the conferences themselves as proposals, and the delegates usually rejected them. It seems that the leaders of the SDS (Democrats) are no longer so sure of their membership, comment rank-and-file SDS members, according to whom the local organizations of the ruling coalition have disintegrated everywhere.

Government Grants Loan to Power Industry for Coal

AU0409075492 Sofia BTA in English
1811 GMT 3 Sep 92

[Text] Sofia, September 3 (BTA)—The government today decided to allocate a 300 million leva interest-free loan to power engineering for coal purchases. The loan will go to Bulgarian companies exporting goods to Russia which will be paid their exports in coal supplies for Bulgaria. Finance Minister Ivan Kostov said after a cabinet meeting.

Until the end of the year the Power Engineering Committee is supposed to introduce before the Council of Ministers proposals for structural changes, including the closure of some money-losing energy enterprises, as well as a programme for the collection of outstanding investment debts built up until the end of 1990. A commission has been appointed to estimate the expenditures needed for the coming autumn and winter.

Bulgaria's power engineering is still state-subsidized. The current price of electricity is lower than its production cost and is to rise some 30 per cent at the beginning of the heating season. The actual price of heat power is four times the amount which users pay. One of the conditions which the World Bank set for the disbursement of a loan to Bulgarian power engineering is a 30 per cent rise of energy prices this autumn after which these prices should be pegged to inflation.

The chairman of the Power Engineering Committee Lyulin Radulov is pleased with today's government decisions. He says that power engineers are doing everything possible to prepare the generating capacities for the

winter period, among other things by a contract for emergency electricity import from Poland or Ukraine so that Bulgarians would not get their all too familiar power supply rationing this coming winter.

Dimitrov, Turkish Minister Discuss Muslim Migration

AU0409073792 Sofia BTA in English 1958 GMT 3 Sep 92

[Text] Sofia, September 3 (BTA)—Turkish Minister of State Mr. Orhan Kilercioglu was received today by Prime Minister Filip Dimitrov and National Assembly Chairman Stefan Savov.

Prime Minister Filip Dimitrov and Mr. Kilercioglu discussed the work of the 11th session of the Intergovernmental Bulgarian-Turkish Committee of Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation, the Government Press Office reported. The sides were unanimous that bilateral trade needs to be invigorated. Special attention was attributed to the development of banking and the reciprocal guaranteeing and encouragement of investments. Mr. Dimitrov and Mr. Kilercioglu discussed the most pressing issues concerning the explosive situation in the former Yugoslavia. The Turkish minister of state expressed his satisfaction with the way in which Bulgaria manages the problems of returnees from Turkey, the Government Press Office reported. The Bulgarian premier outlined his opinion on this matter and the mass-scale travelling of ethnic Bulgarian Turks to Turkey this summer, Mr. Kilercioglu told BTA. "Mr. Dimitrov addresses these problems in so humane a manner that I had almost nothing to say," the Turkish minister of state stressed.

During their meeting in parliament today, Mr. Stefan Savov and Mr. Kilercioglu discussed the Bulgarian-Turkish relations in the background of the Yugoslav crisis. The sides expressed their shared concern over the development of the conflict in Bosnia-Hercegovina. Mr. Savov described the situation in the Bulgarian Parliament, emphasizing that the reforms launched by the Union of Democratic Forces rest on the SDS's political accord with the Movement for Rights and Freedoms (DPS), the National Assembly Press Office reported today.

Mr. Kilercioglu held a private meeting with the parliamentary faction of the Movement for Rights and Freedoms defending the interests of ethnic Turks in Bulgaria.

The members of the Parliamentary DPS and the Turkish guests discussed the positive changes taking place in Bulgaria over the past couple of years and the problem of the so-called hidden migration of the Turkish population in more recent times. Mr. Dogan stressed that the reasons for this current migration are purely economic in character and are due to the high rate of unemployment in regions of mixed population. Mr. Kilercioglu undertook to brief the Turkish Government on these facts. The proposal made by Mrs. Sherife Mustafa that the Turkish Government secure the education of Bulgarian students in Turkey was welcomed by the Turkish delegation. The guests gave their assurance that this offer will be discussed on the level of governments as well.

Romanian General Staff Chief Arrives for Visit

AU0409102492 Sofia BTA in English 0850 GMT 4 Sep 92

[Text] Sofia, September 4 (BTA)—The secretary of state and chief of the General Staff of the Romanian Army, Lieutenant General Dimitru Cioflina [name as received], arrived on a three-day official visit to Bulgaria at the invitation of the chief of General Staff of the Bulgarian Army, Colonel General Lyuben Petrov. The objective of this visit is to continue our dialogue on the promotion of relations between the two Armies pursuant to the treaty signed by the presidents of Bulgaria and Romania, the Romanian guest told the press.

Asked whether his visit is in any way related to the developments in the former Yugoslav republics, Mr. Cioflina replied that there is no such connection. I have come to Bulgaria in return to the Romanian visit of my Bulgarian counterpart, Mr. Cioflina specified.

We will discuss ways to expand the fields of bilateral cooperation in the military sphere, Colonel General Lyuben Petrov said.

Apart from a working meeting of the two delegations, the schedule envisages a visit to the Kharalitsa Military Training Centre and the G.S. Rakovski Military Academy.

Cabinet Approves Bill Outlining End of Federation

LD0409032492 Prague CSTK in English 2145 GMT 3 Sep 92

[Text] Prague Sept 3 (CSTK)—The Czechoslovak Federal Cabinet today approved a bill on a way of ending the Czechoslovak Federation.

The bill is based on the Czechoslovak Government programme statement, and on political agreements between the June election winners in the Czech and the Slovak Republics, the ODS and the HZDS, on a constitutional way of ending the Federation.

The bill provides for the termination of the Federation either by a declaration of the Federal Assembly (parliament), by an agreement between the two republics' parliaments, by a referendum called on the basis of the Federal, Czech and Slovak constitutional laws, or by the withdrawal of one of the republics from the Federation.

Also discussed was an amendment to the law on the powers of the Czechoslovak Federation concerning order and security, and an amendment on power-sharing between the Federation and the two republics as regards press and other information media.

Excluded from the powers of the Federation will be criminal acts against the state's security, and struggle against terrorism if not organised on an international basis.

The latter amendment suggests that the Federation be no longer empowered to establish and administer Czechoslovak Radio, Czechoslovak Television and the Czechoslovak news agency CSTK.

Legal regulations concerning these three media will expire on a date set by a law providing for the transition their property, rights and duties to the bodies of the Czech and the Slovak republics.

Also approved was a bill envisaging that only the two republics' offices for the protection of economic competition will continue their activity while the Federal body will cease to exist.

As regards a bill on ways of dividing the Federation's property and the successor rights, the Federal ministers are to submit by next week their ideas concerning the decisive criteria to be used in the process of property division.

Meciar, Gasparovic Sign New Slovak Constitution

LD0309232992 Prague CSTK in English 2107 GMT 3 Sep 92

[Text] Bratislava Sept 3 (CSTK)—Slovak National Council (parliament) Chairman Ivan Gasparovic and Slovak Premier Vladimir Meciar today signed a new Slovak Constitution at a ceremony at Bratislava Castle. The Constitution, which was approved by the Slovak parliament with a three-fifths majority on Tuesday [1 September], has thus came into effect, with the exception of some of its final provisions.

These provisions not yet in force, the Slovak Constitution does not collide with the existing Federal Constitution which remains in force on the territory of the Slovak Republic, Gasparovic said on television tonight.

Attending the ceremony at Bratislava Castle were Czechoslovak Premier Jan Strasky and Czech parliament Chairman Milan Uhde. Czech Premier Vaclav Klaus, who returned from a three-day visit to Canada today, was not present.

Earlier in the day, the Constitution was declared by the Slovak parliament Presidium.

The signing of the Constitution came one week after the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia (HZDS) and the Civic Democratic Party (ODS), the June election winners in the Slovak and Czech Republics, had agreed at their meeting in Brno that the Czechoslovak Federation should cease to exist as of January 1, 1993.

After the signing of the Constitution, Gasparovic said it means foundation of sovereign Slovak statehood, adding that "the national and civic principle is democratically embedded" in the document.

He called on ethnic minorities and groups living in Czechoslovakia to "help build the new statehood and democratic society" instead of fomenting misunderstanding and controversies.

In his words, the adopted consitution shows (Slovakia's) sincere attitude to the Czech people and the Czech Republic based on mutual sovereign and equal relations.

KDU-CSL Respond to Slovak Constitution Adoption

LD0309173592 Prague Stanice Ceskoslovensko Radio Network in Czech 0900 GMT 3 Sep 92

[Text] The Christian Democratic Union-Czechoslovak People's Party [KDU-CSL] responded today to the adoption of the Slovak Constitution. Alexandr Picha filed the following report from the Party's briefing:

[Begin recording] Jan Kasal, deputy chairman of the Czech parliament, declared that by adopting the full Slovak Constitution, Slovakia has seceded from the Federation. He said that a group of Czech National Council deputies arrived at the conclusion that this inception of an independent Slovak state does not run counter to international rules. However, it does run counter to the currently valid Czechoslovak Constitution, as well as the present decree on the possible termination of the Federation. Jan Kasal went on to confirm that even after Slovakia has become independent, the federal bodies and institutions continue to work on the remaining territory.

Answering a question from Czechoslovak Radio, the KDU-CSL representatives allowed for the fact that the foundation of the Slovak bank issue and the customs territory of Slovakia, according to the new Slovak Constitution, could seriously threaten the agreement between the Civic Democratic Party [ODS] and the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia [HZDS] on a provisional single currency for both states.

Answering another question by our station, Jan Kasal said that the KDU-CSL would try to take part in the talks with the HZDS, the talks that had been held on behalf of the Czech coalition, solely by Klaus' party so far. The KDU-CSL justified this requirement by saying that the negotiations of the national parliaments has not progressed due to the Slovak side. [end recording]

LSU Statement on Results of ODS-HZDS Talks

AU0309124292 Prague SVOBODNE SLOVO in Czech 1 Sep 92 p 3

["Liberal Social Union Statement on the Civic Democratic Party-Movement for a Democratic Slovakia Talks: We Are Not Retreating From Our Positions"]

[Text] The following statement of the Liberal Social Union [LSU] was made available to reporters at yesterday's news conference of this political movement:

1. We have no reason to change our position on the issue of the constitutional arrangement of the state. Our concept is a union [spolkovy] state.

2. The present crisis-ridden development is the result of the erroneous policy pursued by the power establishment after the 1990 elections. The coming to a head of this crisis to which we bear witness today is the result of manipulation with public opinion in the Czech Republic and in Slovakia. Most Slovak parties have given preference to their local interests over the interests of the common state. On the part of the Czech right wing, the effort dominates to gain control over the greatest possible part of the power sphere. Neither the Czech nor the Slovak side have shown readiness to abandon their ossified policies. Under the slogan of a "functional federation," the Czech side has been demanding what represents, more or less, a unitary state. In Slovakia we have been witnessing an escalation of nationalism.

3. We are not retreating from our positions, which are rooted in the idea of the common state. Should, however, developments be heading toward its partition, it must be carried out by legal means. The sovereignty of citizens expressed in a referendum, in particular, needs to be respected. However, while we definitely do not want to resist what citizens decide, the ruling parties evidently resist such a course of action. The ruling politicians do not have the mandate to split up the state, they have only unjustifiedly arrogated this right to themselves.

4. We continue to demand the resumption of the Federal Assembly's functional operation. The fact that the Federal Assembly is not in session at such a critical time is an inexcusable mistake, unless, of course, it is something even worse. Our deputies have already initiated the calling of an extraordinary Federal Assembly session.

5. Should the Republic split up into two independent states, Czech interests will have to be defended. For us, this means our cooperation in creating Czech statehood and functioning state structures. We are not so rich as to be able to extend anything at the expense of the Czech Republic. Even so, the damage resulting from the CSFR's partition will be enormous and it is a mistake that the public is not being informed about this.

6. It is necessary to work on the Czech constitution. We presume that the government coalition will not be uncritically asserting only its own views and interests, as has been the case thus far. We advocate cooperation but we do not understand by it subservience to the ruling parties.

KDH Chairman Attends First Post-Election Meeting

AU0309190292 Bratislava SLOVENSKY DENNIK in Slovak 2 Sep 92 pp 1, 3

["(SD-ze)"-signed report: "Jan Carnogursky: We Will Defend Slovakia"]

[Text] Bratislava—Christian Democratic Movement [KDH] Chairman Jan Carnogursky and Central Secretary Stanislav Vajcik held the movement's first post-election meeting with citizens yesterday in Bratislava-Karlova Ves. The packed hall testified to the fact that citizens are still extremely interested in political events in our country. Jan Carnogursky said the following in his introductory speech on the current political situation and the KDH's point of view:

"We are preparing an analysis of our election results and will submit it to our movement's assembly, which will convene in just under three weeks. Since the elections, we have been thinking about the mistakes we made, and one of our mistakes was underestimating the rumors that arose about the KDH. Unfortunately, many of them still persist. We are probably too similar to conservative parties in the sense that we care more about the contents of our policy than about its presentation and glorification, so we did not pay enough attention to what was being said among certain groups of citizens, according to whom the KDH is to blame for everything bad in our state.

"At the same time, we were part of a minority government and the subsequent decisions were not only a compromise among the coalition parties, but we also represented a compromise between what we really wanted and our objective possibilities.

"After the 1990 elections, the KDH entered the government because the government coalition was virtually the only one possible that could have been formed in Slovakia. The language law was passed in October 1990, and important laws on economic transformation were passed between the 1990 elections and the beginning of 1991. At that time, senior posts in the Slovak Government were occupied by Vladimir Meciar as prime minister, Michal Kovac as finance minister, Augustin Marian Huska as privatization minister, and Rudolf Filkus as economic strategy minister. Today, these people criticize and reject the measures and decisions they themselves adopted.

"For example, current Deputy Culture Minister Ivan Mjartan was given—as a partner—a license for private radio broadcasting in May this year. Culture Minister Dusan Slobodnik was a member of the Slovak delegation that took part in a seminar in Oxford last December. When current Federal Assembly Chairman Michal Kovac left the government after the establishment of the Movement For a Democratic Slovakia [HZDS], he was offered the post of bank director.

"We considered—to say the least—national consensus to be as important for building society as economic reform. Today, we watch with amazement as certain people return to the slogans and methods of the past.

"I am glad to say that the KDH is the only political movement that does not have such people among its ranks. The Christian and democratic principles in the KDH's program and structure act as a natural filter through which only people dedicated and faithful to Christian and democratic principles pass. The KDH's internal stability and its capability for action are its main maxim for the future.

"Our movement's internal stability enables us to pursue a single and constant political line, regardless of attacks from any side. First and foremost, there is our line on the constitutional and legal arrangement. I published my ideas on Slovakia as an equal element in a broader Central European grouping in the samizdat magazine ALTERNATIVA even before November 1989 and under my own name. I have repeated these ideas many times since November 1989, and I—or rather, the KDH—have constantly concretized them. Our program for the constitutional and legal arrangement took Slovakia's national aspirations into consideration along with the state's stability, society's stability, and the citizens' security. We recognized the economic and political risks involved in breaking up the state long before the HZDS, and we informed the citizens of them. We did not mislead citizens, for example, by talk about an economic development policy since we knew that the resources for such a policy were more than modest. We did not mislead citizens, for example, by talking about a confederation, since we knew that two partners are necessary for a confederation, and we would simply not find a second partner.

"An independent Slovak Republic will evolve on 1 January. We will see whether it will really be independent. However, the KDH will do everything in its power to ensure that it really is independent and sovereign, even though we voted against the Declaration on Sovereignty. We proposed a different plan for achieving Slovakia's independence and sovereignty. Nevertheless, when the Slovak Republic comes into being on 1 January, we will support it, defend it, and also try to help it in any way we can. It is obvious to everyone that our capabilities are different from the government's; perhaps they are even better. We love Slovakia, and we regard ourselves as patriots."

Doctor Says Dubcek Improving 'Slightly'

LD0409130892 Prague CSTK in English 1035 GMT 4 Sep 92

[Text] Prague Sept 4 (CSTK)—The health condition of Alexander Dubcek, following operations for injuries he suffered in a car accident on Tuesday [4 September], has slightly improved, Dr. Milan Rocen, the head physician of Prague's Na Homolce Hospital, said today.

CSTK learnt from Rocen's report to the Czechoslovak parliament's press department that doctors at the hospital expect the overall condition of the 70-year former Federal parliament chairman to further improve. They said they are not planning any further operations for the coming days.

Captain Jiri Kosler of the Czech Police Office in Pelhrimov, South Bohemia, who is investigating the accident, was quoted by today's Czech daily RUDE PRAVO as having said Dubcek and his driver were lucky that the accident had been seen by a witness who probably saved their lives, as their crashed car could not be seen from the motorway.

The witness said his car had been overtaken by a speeding foreign-made car which later skidded and plunged off the motorway into a small ravine. The witness stopped, went to the place of the accident, covered Dubcek with a blanket, and returned to the motorway. He stopped a car to ask its driver to call an ambulance and waited until it came.

Government Statement on Current Political Scene

LD0309184192 Budapest MTI in English 1753 GMT 3 Sep 92

[Text] Budapest, 3 Sep (MTI)—During its Thursday [3 September] session, the Hungarian Government unanimously adopted the following statement.

The government is convinced that the decisive majority of Hungarian public opinion see with indignation and aversion the increasingly harsh rhetoric and actions in domestic public life, and poltical hysteria.

The government regards as irresponsibility and adventurism the arbitrary interpretation of the Constitution serving political ends, the false and deliberately deceptive information of public opinion, the mutual efforts by certain actors on the political stage to discredit and destroy each other, as well as the ensuing extremist and rejective political views burdened by prejudices.

The government firmly rejects endeavours of any orientation characteristic of totalitarian states, intentions running counter to general moral values, human and minority rights, the UN spirit and Charter and our international obligations, and will do all it can to safeguard the constitutional order whenever necessary.

Everybody should be aware that the phenomena disrupting the harmony of Hungarian public life and poisoning the political atmosphere stir up emotions, jeopardize calm and peace in the country, endanger democracy and the law-governed state, put at risk our international prestige and damage our national interests.

The government is aware that the occurrences hurting society's sense of justice add more fuel to existing passions, which are aggravated further by heavy burdens inherited from the former system. At the same time, the satisfaction of just demands in society is also being threatened by extremist actions.

It is the government's conviction that all political forces should make efforts towards easing confrontation and mitigating the storms of public life. Today the country's resources have to be concentrated on meeting the historic challenges lying ahead of us—this is also dictated by the interests of the country's citizens and Hungarians throughout the world.

Minister Criticizes 'Half Truths' in Csurka Study

AU0309103792 Budapest UJ MAGYARORSZAG in Hungarian 27 Aug 92 p 4

[Interview with Minister Without Portfolio Balazs Horvath by Marta Boday on 27 August; place not given: "Balazs Horvath's Opinion on the Csurka Study—Not To Knock Down but To Dismantle Brick by Brick"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Horvath] Istvan Csurka wrote a lot of half truths in his study, but he did not write the truth itself. This is probably because he knows that he does not have a monopoly on the truth. Because he included so many half truths, it would have been useful to discuss this study, which has provoked a lot of reaction, or to inform us about it before publication, while, naturally, maintaining his original views. In my view, the unexpected and carefully timed publication did not do any good to either the Hungarian Democratic Forum [MDF] or the general public. Csurka is a dominant figure in the MDF and a member of the Presidium. When he makes a statement, people always look for the MDF and the government behind his words. This time, he did not arrive at the truth because his starting point was wrong. As a result of the elections, the MDF and the government were given three tasks. The first two were transformation of the economy and society and reestablishment of the country's sovereignty. The third task was to ensure the continuous functioning of the Republic. As the MDF did not obtain an absolute majority, the transformation of the economy and society is taking place as a result of compromises within the government. The other two parties in the coalition, the Independent Smallholders Party [FKgP] and the Christian Democratic People's Party, stand on certain important issues of principle. It is enough to refer to the fact that the current form of the Partial Compensation Law, which was drawn up after a process of bargaining with the FKgP, is fundamentally different from the land program proposed by the MDF. Therefore, the transformation of the economy and society is a series of compromises that involve the opposition just as the opposition has a role in conscious change of the regime. Csurka must know this very well because he knew about the pact. Although he did not take part in drawing up the pact between the MDF and the Alliance of Free Democrats [SZDSZ], he knows all its points. [passage omitted]

[Boday] What are your views on the pact?

[Horvath] In my view, the MDF-SZDSZ pact was necessary in order to be able to change regimes and to govern the country. What I do not agree with (and the last page and a half of the Csurka study is based on this) is the statement that the MDF is a gathering place for people who accept populist-national views and consider them a priority. The MDF has more than one ideological leaning. I cannot tell which is the dominant one. There is a strong populist-national attitude, a national-liberal view—with essentially the same goals—and the Christian democratic approach. I do not agree with the section of the study that says that the populist-national element should be exclusive. As for the uncertainty of the population, one of the reasons for this is that they cannot utilize their freedom; however, they do not want a return of the Kadar regime or communist rule, and the very idea is ridiculous. What they miss is the paternalistic state, or more precisely, the helping hand. This is why the Hungarian Socialist Party can use the social net as a subject for their demagogy. I have no doubt whatsoever that Jozsef Antall is continuing down the road that was set out for him and for this government as far as is possible. Perhaps it was a mistake to have become more

cautious but this can be explained. Csurka says that the government is being hesitant. The government is not being hesitant—it is carrying a burden that prevents it from progressing any faster. [passage omitted]

[Boday] Is the MDF in danger of becoming—as with the case of other parties—a party of scandals?

[Horvath] This study is not scandalous. I am certain that it will create a storm, but I think it is impossible that this would result in a movement within the MDF leading to consequences unwanted either by him or by me. I consider it important in a democracy that [parliamentary Deputy] Balazsi can write down his views (as he did it in the UJ MAGYARORSZAG yesterday). Csurka is doing the same, the prime minister gives his views, and so do I. All these contribute to the picture. It is precisely one of Antall's abilities as a leader that he can reconcile these views and find the lowest common denominator between them. [passage omitted]

Antall Sends Letter to Strasky on Bos Barrage

AU0309125292 Budapest MAGYAR HIRLAP in Hungarian 29 Aug 92 p 3

["Text" of letter from Prime Minister Jozsef Antall to CSFR Prime Minister Jan Strasky; place and date not given]

[Text] Esteemed Prime Minister!

The issue of the Bos-Nagymaros water barrage system is a difficult problem inherited from the past and its roots are hidden in the former faulty decision-making mechanism, but views on this issue have not become closer even after the change in political regimes. Although, at the negotiations in 1991, there was a consensus on defining the issue of the Danube water barrage as a professional-scientific problem, joint professional work could not be started because the Czech and Slovak side consistently refused the Hungarian request to halt construction of the Bos water barrage, which was a rational minimum condition to ensure that the necessary inspections would not be disturbed.

In 1992, construction of the temporary solution—the so-called "C" version, which includes diversion of the Danube—was begun with great forces. Continuation of this in spite of repeated Hungarian requests made, among other things, the help offered by the EC Commission for establishment of a joint expert committee impossible. Because of the continuation of construction—which also violates Hungarian territorial integrity—hope for a joint decision by the two governments on the fate of the 1977 interstate agreement on implementation of the barrage system has disappeared. Therefore, the Government of the Hungarian Republic, with the authorization of parliament, canceled the agreement as of 25 May, while at the same time, suggesting a new interstate agreement to jointly settle the consequences.

In my last letter on the issue of the Bos-Nagymaros water barrage system, dated 6 August, I repeated that the Government of the Hungarian Republic wished to hold negotiations on settling the consequences of termination of the 1977 interstate agreement.

According to the letter sent in reply, although you saw a possibility that the CSFR Government would pass a resolution acceptable for both sides after reviewing all the problems related to the Bos-Nagymaros water barrage, I must regrettably establish that the construction to divert the Danube—which threatens Hungary's territorial integrity—has been continuing at the same speed ever since. In the meantime, I have been informed by the chairman of the Danube Committee of the official notification of the Czech and Slovak side in which it announced that it would divert the Danube to Czech and Slovak territory a few weeks after 15 October, thereby one-sidedly changing the character of the border. This has greatly reduced the chance for a settlement through bilateral negotiations.

At the same time, the Government of the Hungarian Republic still wishes to settle the conflict between the two countries in keeping with international law; therefore, it suggests taking the debate to a unbiased forum. I propose that the CSFR Government and the Government of the Hungarian Republic jointly take the debate over implementation of the Bos barrage system according to the "C" version to The Hague International Court and, with a joint will, ask for the decision of the International Court. In addition to acknowledging the authority of the International Court, the representatives of our governments should draw up the questions on which the two governments are seeking the International Court's position.

Esteemed Prime Minister!

The negotiations of the Hungarian Government and the Czech and Slovak Government on the Danube water barrage issue were unsuccessful. Seeking the view of The Hague International Court is a way that could lead to resolving the conflict according to the European value system, and this is the common interest of our countries. For this reason, I trust that the suggestion of the Hungarian Government will meet with the approval of the Czech and Slovak Government.

I will inform the European forums for cooperation—primarily, the EC Commission, the Council of Europe, and the CSCE—of the Hungarian Government's initiative.

I am yours most respectfully. Sincerely: Jozsef Antall.

Government Reacts to Slovak Statement on Dam

LD0309211392 Budapest MTI in English
1059 GMT 3 Sep 92

[Text] Budapest, September 3 (MTI)—Hungarian Prime Minister Jozsef Antall denies he has ever made an offer to the Slovak Government, whereby "the Gabcikovo barrage could be placed into operation in return for halting construction at Nagymaros". The above was reported to MTI by the prime minister's office on Thursday [3 September].

The prime minister considers it necessary to state this, since according to Hungarian press reports, Slovak Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar on Wednesday said in connection with the future of the Gabcikovo barrage that they could possibly accept this "position in the future".

The Hungarian prime minister said, in connection with the aforementioned information, that he could not have made an offer of this kind as that would have contradicted the relevant resolutions of the National Assembly and the government. The Hungarian Government cancelled the inter-state contract on the building and operation of the Gabcikovo-Nagymaros barrage system in May of this year.

PRC Agrees To Settle Debts Through Purchases

LD0309210192 Budapest MTI in English
0657 GMT 3 Sep 92

[Text] Budapest, September 3 (MTI)—The 106 million Swiss franc debt owed by the People's Republic of China to Hungary is to be settled with purchases, under an agreement signed this week. The agreement is the result of a two-year negotiation process on the outstanding debts, which consist of two parts: The debts in bilateral foreign trade, and between Hungary and two Chinese provinces.

The agreement was signed by National Bank of Hungary Vice-President Frigyes Harshegyi and Gyorgy Matrai, president of the Hungarian Autotrade Cooperative, a private firm which has purchased the debt stock from the National Bank. The purchase sum was not disclosed by either side. Autotrade will have to meet its payments obligations in two parts, within one year.

The sides have requested the Swedish Gota Bank to see to banking tasks related to purchases of Chinese products by Autotrade in return for the debt. Matray said Autotrade is in contact with 16 Chinese firms, and has concluded contracts with various trading houses for the marketing of the products.

Parliament Raises Family Allowance Levels

LD0209161592 Budapest MTI in English
1632 GMT 1 Sep 92

[Text] Budapest, September 1 (MTI)—Parliament on Tuesday [1 September] afternoon increased monthly family allowances by 300 forints per child on average from September 1. Under the relevant law passed in 1990, parliament should determine the extent of the family allowance at least twice a year, adjusting it to the actual costs of child-raising.

An allocation of 10.9 billion forints has been earmarked for the purpose this year, of which 8.5 billion forints were used in January for a 10.6 per cent increase of the allowance, 300 forints on average, Welfare Secretary Erzsebet Pusztai told parliament. The total increase was now up to 12.2 per cent by yearly average. The employees, side of the Interest Coordination Council pushed for an annual rise of 20 per cent.

The consumer price index for the first six months of 1992 was 24.2 per cent in excess of the same period last year.

Czech Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks

LD0309213192 Warsaw PAP in English 2241 GMT 2 Sep 92

[Excerpts] Warsaw, Sept. 2—Minister of International Relations of the Czech Republic Josef Zieleniec arrived in Warsaw on Wednesday [2 September] for talks with his Polish counterpart Krzysztof Skubiszewski. Zieleniec said today that he will brief the Polish minister on the mechanism of changes facing Czecho-Slovakia in the next several months. The Czech guest stressed that he does not expect any major changes in the Czech Republic's foreign policy but in light of the forthcoming changes one has to talk about future relations. [passage omitted]

Czech Minister for International Relations Josef Zieleniec discussed with the Polish Finance Ministry and the Ministry for Foreign Economic Relations questions pertaining to the future of Polish-Czech economic contacts in the light of the economic reforms carried out in the two countries.

According to Zieleniec, Polish Minister for Foreign Economic Relations Andrzej Arendarski "sees no obstacles" to cutting the time of building the free trade zone from 8 to 4 years. The proposal was earlier approved by the Hungarian side during negotiations in Budapest.

Czech Minister for International Relations Josef Zieleniec on Thursday also met with Sejm (lower house) and Senate speakers, Wieslaw Chrzanowski and August Chelkowski, respectively, to discuss prospects for the Polish-Czech political and economic relations, as well as contacts of the two countries with the European bodies. Also Minister for Contacts with the European Communities (EC) Jan Krzysztof Bielecki briefed Zieleniec on Polish experience in cooperation with European organizations.

Zieleniec Assesses Bilateral Relations

LD0309165992 Warsaw Radio Warszawa Network in Polish 1345 GMT 3 Sep 92

[Text] Josef Zieleniec, foreign relations minister for the Czech Republic, has been holding talks in Warsaw since this morning. As is known, we will be neighbors to not one but two states—Czech and Slovak. That is why this visit is of great importance for our future relations. The Polish-Czech talks were held before lunch in the Foreign Affairs Ministry. Then Prime Minister Hanna Suchocka received the Czech foreign minister. Minister Josef Zieleniec, who is of Polish origin, said after the meeting:

[Begin recording] I think that there is total agreement that these relations should develop and that there is a space for this development. I informed the Prime Minister Suchocka about the process of the formation of two states: the Czech and Slovak Republics. Information from the source is very important because these matters are connected with Poland. Poland has a border with the Czech Republic as well as the Slovak Republic. I think that direct information about not only facts but also intentions, plans, from that point of view, is necessary. We plan for these direct relations to develop. The prime minister will certainly meet with the Czech prime minister, and former President Havel will be in Poland in the next 24 hours. These are all very important visits because the situation is very complicated and we must talk to each other. [end recording]

Agreement Signed With Ursus Strike Committee

LD0209174592 Warsaw Radio Warszawa Network in Polish 1700 GMT 2 Sep 91

[Text] A moment ago, we received the following communique from Industry Ministry press spokeswoman Grazyna Lewandowska:

On 2 September, an agreement was signed between the industry and trade minister, the Industrial Development Agency [ARP], and representatives of the Ursus Strike Committee, as a result of which the process of restructuring the enterprise will be accelerated, taking the workforce's demands into account, in proportion to the enterprise's possibilities.

Ursus Strike Called Off, Picketing Suspended

LD0309221492 Warsaw PAP in English 1930 GMT 3 Sep 92

[Text] Warsaw, Sept. 3—Strikers at Warsaw's Ursus tractor plant decided on Thursday [3 September] to suspend the protest action following the conclusion of an agreement between the strikers, the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Industrial Development Agency (ARP). The picket of the cabinet office and a street demonstration planned for Friday in Warsaw were also called off.

The strike committee also accepted the invitation from Prime Minister Hanna Suchocka who proposed to meet with Ursus workers representatives. Suchocka proposed to hold the meeting on Friday, to be also attended by Solidarity leader Marian Krzaklewski. However, the strike committee decided that Ursus workers would join a demonstration planned by the Mazowsze chapter of the Solidarity Union some time between September 10 and 15.

The strike may be resumed if the government side fails to keep the agreement. It was agreed that the process of Ursus restructuring will be accelerated and postulates of the workforce met to the degree allowed by the financial status of the enterprise.

A strike held in the Ursus twin tractor plant in Lublin, south-east Poland, was held throughout Thursday, but will be suspended on Friday.

Nastase, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Begin Talks

AU0309115792 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1000 GMT 3 Sep 92

[Text] The Romanian and Ukrainian delegations, led by the foreign ministers of the two countries, began talks a short time ago at the headquarters of the Romanian Foreign Ministry. Here are the statements made by Adrian Nastase and Anatoliy Zlenko prior to the talks:

[Begin recording] [Nastase] It is a particular pleasure for us and a particular opportunity to place our bilateral relations on new and friendly bases. I am convinced that your stay in Romania will yield positive results and I am also convinced that our talks will be very constructive.

Mr. Minister, I have always found I can hold a pragmatic dialogue with you and we have always succeeded in finding areas of joint interest. Putting aside problems that cannot be solved at the moment, I am convinced that the current historical moment for Ukraine and Romania requires an active and sincere cooperation that will help us overcome these difficult times.

Once again, I want to welcome you in Bucharest. It is a very pleasant opportunity to have you as our guest and we are looking forward to starting a very open and very sincere dialogue with you.

[Zlenko] I would like to thank Mr. Nastase for the invitation extended to me and it gives me great pleasure to be here in your country. This is the first visit by a Ukrainian foreign minister to your country and we attach great significance to it. First, I would like to thank you for the warm welcome and the suggestion to hold open discussions. Before starting our dialogue, I would like to introduce the members of our delegation to you: To my right is Mr. Hnatyshyn, who is the representative of Ukraine in the Chernovtsy region and Leontiy Sanduleac, who is Ukraine's ambassador to Romania, and I hope he will take up his post very soon. [end recording]

The Ukrainian delegation also includes: Mr. Yuriy Serdyuk, deputy culture minister and other Foreign Ministry officials. Our correspondent informed us that the Romanian delegation includes: State Secretary Teodor Melescanu, Undersecretary Adrian Dohotar, Traian Chebeleu, Romanian Foreign Ministry spokesman Traian Chebeleu, and other diplomats.

First Round of Talks End

AU0309180292 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1718 GMT 3 Sep 92

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 3/9/1992—A first round of talks was held at the Romanian Foreign Ministry between the foreign ministers of Romania, Adrian Nastase, and Ukraine, Anatoliy Zlenko, on the bilateral ties of the two countries.

At the close of the first round of talks Anatoliy Zlenko told the press that he was satisfied in general with the sincere and open way in which the talks had been conducted, with their atmosphere of friendship and full understanding. "We have all the reasons to be satisfied with the results of the negotiations, as our points of view coincide and I hope they will have good final results for both countries. We have focused on a few political, economic, cultural, humanitarian problems. We have also discussed ways to prepare future bilateral relations, added the head of the Ukrainian diplomacy.

For his part, Minister Adrian Nastase appreciated that he had had an extremely useful exchange of opinions with his Ukrainian counterpart. He referred to "the particularly open and constructive way in which the negotiations have been conducted so far," and mentioned that "we have opened together a period of a pragmatic, realistic, constructive approach for our bilateral ties, as a whole."

The Romanian minister also showed that the problems of the Romanians living in Ukraine and of the Ukrainians living in Romania, the way in which they can preserve their cultural identity and affirm it in the space they are living in had been approached in a particularly open and friendly manner. "We both had a constructive approach and a wish to put it to work," added the Romanian foreign minister.

Documents Signed

AU0309201192 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1834 GMT 3 Sep 92

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 3/9/1992—The foreign ministers of Romania and Ukraine, Adrian Nastase and Anatoliy Zlenko, conducted talks Thursday, September 3, at the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. At the close of their talks the two ministers signed two important documents on the development of the ties between Romania and Ukraine, namely an agreement on the cooperation in the fields of culture, science and education, and the consular convention.

The former includes general provisions on the development of bilateral relations in the said domains, on the basis of which a number of programmes, understandings, protocols referring to exchanges between specialised institutions have to be drawn up. These documents have to facilitate the creation of conditions able to meet cultural and religious requirements for the preservation of the language and culture of both the Romanian ethnics living in Ukraine and the Ukrainian ethnics living in Romania. Due attention will be paid to the preservation and restoration of cultural monuments of the two minorities in the territories of the two countries, says the document

The consular convention establishes the legal framework for bilateral consular activities and relations, institutionalizes and delimits the concrete conditions for the activities of the consular agencies of the two countries.

After having signed the said documents, the two foreign ministers met Romanian and foreign journalists accredited in Bucharest. The two foreign ministers made short

statements for the press, in which they referred to the importance of this first visit of an Ukrainian foreign minister to Romania and expressed their hope that it would mark a decisive step in the positive evolution of the Romanian-Ukrainian ties.

Stolojan Assesses Bilateral Ties With Zlenko

AU0309180392 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1718 GMT 3 Sep 92

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 3/9/1992—The Romanian prime minister, Theodor Stolojan, received at Victory Palace, Thursday, September 3, the Ukrainian foreign minister, Anatoliy Zlenko, accompanied by his Romanian counterpart, Adrian Nastase. Aspects were analysed of the development of bilateral links, especially economic ones, based on equality, partnership and mutual advantage. Problems were also tackled concerning the cooperation for the construction of the mining combine at Krivoy Rog. The wish was expressed that good neighbourliness and large cooperation relations between Romania and Ukraine be continued.

Iliescu Details View on Dniester Territorial Issues

AU0309154592 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1223 GMT 3 Sep 92

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 3/9/1992—It is Romania's view that Dniester region is a territory that has never belonged to the modern Romanian state, although in the past the Moldovan state (one of the three parts of the Romanian territory before the unification of Romania - editor's note) extended on that territory, too, said President Ion Iliescu of Romania in an interview with GLASUL NATIUNII, a newspaper brought out in the Republic of Moldova, which is quoted by the TINERETUL LIBER. At the same time, the president said, we cannot fail to consider the situation in which the leadership of the Republic of Moldova is as they cannot forget the 40 per cent Romanians living beyond the Dniester. Moldova, as it is today, was not created by the Romanian state. It is the result of the dissolution of the Soviet Union, which occupied Bessarabia in 1940. In consideration of these circumstances, we must develop links set on respect for that state's sovereignty. The problem of territories and frontiers is more complicated and should be connected with the general situation on the continent, Iliescu pointed out.

Cooperation Protocol Signed With UAE

AU0209191692 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1730 GMT 2 Sep 92

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 2/9/1992—The first session of the Joint Inter-Government Commission of Economic and Technical Cooperation between Romania and the United Arab Emirates [UAE] concluded at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania on September 2.

The co-chairmen of the commission, Teodor Melescanu, secretary of state at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania, and Muhammad Bin-Yusuf al-Khalifah, undersecretary of state in the Foreign Ministry of the United Arab Emirates, signed the session's protocol. The document provides for a number of cooperation ventures in priority domains like crude deliveries to Romania, procurement and commercialization of that product in Romania just as emirates' investment of capital in Romania. The protocol signed at the end of the session also stipulates the setting up of a committee to control the way in which the actions agreed upon are to be applied. During the session it was also covenanted that the United Arab Emirates should open its embassy in Bucharest in the near future.

Bishop Tokes Goes On 'Indefinite' Hunger Strike

AU0209111692 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1000 GMT 2 Sep 92

[Text] In a fax sent to our editorial board, Bishop Laszlo Tokes announces that today he began an indefinite hunger strike at the Reformed Church of Timisoara. In an extensive document, Mr. Laszlo Tokes demands that justice be done for the revolution's victims; that the authors of the December 1989 genocide account for their deeds; that the violent actions in Tirgu Mures and Bucharest be clarified and justice done; that the people sentenced during the preconceived anti-Hungarian trials connected with Tirgu Mures, Dealul, and Setes be set free; that those who persecuted the members and leaders of the Timisoara Reformed Community in 1989 be held accountable for their deeds; and that the circumstances surrounding the death of the two prominent figures of the Timisoara Reformed Community be clarified.

In his protest, Bishop Laszlo Tokes asks for the support of the Timisoara Reformed Community, the Timisoara people, the Reformed Church and sister denominations, the victims' families, public opinion at home and abroad, the democratic and free countries, and churches and ecumenical organizations abroad.

Iliescu Responds to Bishop's Actions, Charges

AU0309161092 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1500 GMT 3 Sep 92

["Open letter" from President Ion Iliescu to Bishop Laszlo Tokes issued in Budapest on 3 September: "Presidential Activities: President Ion Iliescu's Letter to Bishop Laszlo Tokes"]

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 3/9/1992—Dear Mr. Laszlo Tokes, from ROMPRES reports I learned of your decision to go on a hunger strike for an indefinite period of time in support of the claims you set forth in a communique. I read that communique most attentively. As the president of Romania I am concerned with your decision, its reasons and its possible implications for the political life in this country against the background of the election campaign now in progress.

Your gesture comes as a surprise, all the more so as it follows your recent statements in Budapest, which had a positive reverberation in the public opinion in Romania, and, in this context, it can only give birth to speculative interpretations. As you are one of the personalities of the political life of Romania, I decided to send you this open letter to share my concerns with you and, equally, to express my willingness to meet you so that we may look into ways of clarifying and effectively solving the problems you set forth.

You formulate numerous accusations, in a general sense, and, sometimes, what you say is ambiguous, like, for instance, your statement that "the new regime covers up infractions of the law" and "leaves the killers at large." You may well realize that I cannot accept these accusations in a general sense. If you know of palpable cases and instances I will be the first to encourage and support you to bring them to court. You refer to "the power's attitude of complicity"—with whom?—to the fact that the people is instilled with "mistrust"—in whom? You refer to members of the revolutionary Reformed Community in Timisoara who were "removed"—where from and by whom?

Opening a parenthesis here, I should like to remind you that "power" in Romania today is the sum of a great diversity of political forces. I remind you that "power" in Timisoara belongs to a mayor representing the Democratic Convention, therefore, the opposition, who has every prerogative to take action on a local plane to clarify the tangible situations you refer to. In Tirgu Mures "the power" is held by a mayor elected on a proposal from the Hungarian Democratic Union of Romania and I could supply further examples of this kind. You mention the names of a number of people who should have been put on trial, in your opinion, for certain infractions of the law. If you know these facts or if you have evidence, I do encourage you to appeal to justice. I think you understand that one cannot take legal action on the basis of general statements for the press. For almost a year now, justice has been headed by a respected member of the opposition and he has the possibility to establish who is responsible for past violations of human rights, also on the basis of your pieces of information, if you supply them.

You recall the events of March 1990 in a language which I, naturally, cannot accept. Certainly, we have different ways of looking at what happened in Tirgu Mures at that time. To me, it is clear that the respective events were fomented from abroad and started once massive groups of thousands of citizens from Hungary, who behaved in a manner that is unqualifiable in Romania, had arrived. You know it as well as I do that the events in Tirgu Mures were looked into by a special parliamentary commission that set forth its report and that one can talk about that report and about the parliamentary decision on the report for a long time. Personally, I think that the respective decision was the wisest and that any other end of the debates over those unfortunate events would have had nefarious consequences on the political life in Romania. Naturally, I cannot agree to your calling those events "an anti-Hungarian pogrom." Do not forget that the most notorious victim of the acts of violence in Tirgu Mures was the Romanian Mihaila Cofariu, although he was deliberately introduced by the Hungarian Television and by TV stations in other countries as the victim of "the Romanian's violence."

In your communique you pose other problems, too, but I cannot agree to your statements as they need further clarification for our public opinion. So, for instance, I think there is nothing to justify your statement that "the national-communist power" in Romania, as you call it, promotes xenophobia and anti-Hungarianism or that "the power is interested" in giving the Hungarian minority "the image of an enemy" or in ascribing to it the role of "guilty nation." I think it would be more constructive if you, as the honorary chairman of the Hungarian Democratic Union of Romania, contributed to stepping-up the finalization of the bilateral treaty between Romania and Hungary, including the clause of lack of mutual territorial claims. Such a position would indeed eliminate the psychological obstacles to the development of Romanian-Hungarian relations and would contribute to a greater ethnic harmony in Romania.

Our policy, the policy of the government in general, as concerns the problems of minorities is altogether different from the way you describe it and it perfectly accords with European standards. I should like to remind you the fact that the Hungarian minority in Romania, which accounts for 7.1 percent of the country's population, has the full capacity to express and defend its specific interests within the democratic framework of the Romanian society through its 41 parliamentarians in Romania's Parliament, through the 200 Hungarian-language newspapers which are put out in Romania, through the three weekly hours of TV time in Hungarian on Romanian Television and numerous hours of broadcasting in Hungarian in territorial TV studios, through a daily one-hour broadcast on the national radio station and through tens of hours of broadcasting in Hungarian weekly granted by territorial radio stations, and by many other means. For this reason, too, the form of expression you have chosen—that is, the hunger strike—seems unjustified. The political life in Romania is such that all the problems you pose could be discussed publicly, by the democratic ways in general use in democratic countries.

If you wish to convey certain messages to the Romanian people you have the possibility to introduce these messages into the electoral platform of the party whose honorary chairman you are to be examined by the voters. You should trust the party you lead. I hope that you are not afraid that the voters in Romania are not mature enough to understand these messages and that you do not think they should be stirred through such spectacular gestures as the one you have resorted to. I want to believe you agree and we are encouraged in this respect by the democratic governments in the West—that we should

make every effort to secure a decent atmosphere for the free and fair elections of September 27. All you have to do is convince the electorate to support your "claims." I hope you do not want the political debate in Romania to be moved into the streets again. I believe that you know that your attitude will be attentively followed and judged by those who want a smooth run of the election process in Romania and that you will choose a behaviour compatible with a lucid, civilized and democratic debate.

Likewise, I do not believe in "the potential threat of violence" you are talking about as I cannot see what might prompt a recourse to violence (and by whom?) in Romania.

Naturally, the fact remains open for discussion to what extent this is the right moment—now when all the country's political forces are committed to the election campaign—for your "claims" to be discussed publicly. It is my opinion that at present we should not concentrate our efforts to exorcise the past but to build the future. However, as you pin on me various "responsibilities" linked to your "claims," I am ready to meet you and to talk with you, with calm and on the basis of palpable data and facts, all the problems you pose, in an open and responsible spirit. I do not think this is the right time for passionate approaches which can only radicalize our society and foment passion and confrontation that cannot serve those interested in furthering the democratic process and the economic reform in Romania.

As politicians—and I consider the fact that you are not only a cleric but also the leader of the Hungarian Democratic Union—we have a great responsibility and we should show all the political maturity called for by the time in which the country lives and we should try to clarify the problems of concern to us by way of dialogue. Consequently, I hope you will accept the meeting I suggested as soon as possible. I am convinced that only open dialogue is today the acceptable way to follow in the democratic state of law we are building in Romania.

Please accept, Mr. Tokes, the assurances of my consideration,

Ion Iliescu.

UDMR Terms Hunger Strike 'Courageous Deed'

AU0309184092 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1809 GMT 3 Sep 92

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 3/9/1992—The parliamentary group of the Hungarian Democratic Union of Romania [UDMR] has learnt with "full understanding and due respect about the courageous deed" of Laszlo Tokes, who has gone on a hunger strike, and of the statement in which he gives the reasons for his action.

According to a statement issued by the Hungarian Democratic Union of Romania, Laszlo Tokes' action "represents an appeal to justice, a homage to the memory of victims, a deep-hearted protest against flagrant cases of injustice and a token of faithfulness to the ideals of the revolution." "We are sympathetic with his exemplary deed and we express our confidence that, together with us, all the citizens of Romania fighting for democracy back him."

U.S. Rescue Helicopters Fired On at Crash Site

AU0409071992 Paris AFP in English 0655 GMT 4 Sep 92

[Text] Sarajevo, Sept 4 (AFP)—Four U.S. Marine helicopters trying to reach the wreckage of a U.N. plane that crashed near here Thursday [3 September] came under small arms fire, a U.N. spokesman said Friday.

The Italian transport plane, part of the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) humanitarian airlift, was en route to Sarajevo from the Adriatic coastal town of Split.

There had been reports late Thursday that the plane was shot down, but these could not be confirmed Friday and U.N. officials said only that the cause of the crash was under investigation.

The plane carried a crew of four and a load of blankets.

Relief flights into and out of the Sarajevo airport were suspended until further notice, said a spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner of Refugees (UNHCR).

The plane crashed during a one-day visit here by Marrack Goulding, U.N. under secretary-general for peacekeeping operations.

A French crew recovered the charred bodies of the four crewmen early Friday from the heavily wooded crash site about 40 kilometers (25 miles) west of the Bosnian capital, UNPROFOR sources said.

They said radio contact with the plane was lost at 1:17 p.m. (1117GMT), eight minutes before its scheduled arrival time, although no distress call was received by air traffic controllers here.

Artillery blasts and heavy machine gun fire meanwhile escalated sharply Friday morning in the southwestern sector of the capital around the suburb of Ilija, where Serbian and Bosnian strongholds are in close proximity.

The exchanges followed a day of relative calm Thursday during the visit by Goulding, who had little comment as he left the city after meeting with Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic and Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic.

Bodies Recovered From Airplane

LD0409123392 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in English 1205 GMT 4 Sep 92

[Text] A representative of the UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force] in Sarajevo said this morning that a French rescue team has pulled the charred bodies of the four members of the Italian crew out of the wreckage of the airplane that came down some 34 kilometers from Sarajevo yesterday. He confirmed that radio contact was lost some eight minutes before landing time and that the control tower did not receive any distress signals from the plane before it went down. (Peter Kessler), representative of the UNHCR [UN High Commissioner for Refugees], stated in Zagreb today that investigations into the cause of the accident began this morning.

Serbs Deny Involvement

LD0309194592 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1813 GMT 3 Sep 92

[Text] Belgrade, 3 Sep (TANJUG)—The main headquarters of the Serb Republic (of Bosnia-Hercegovina) Army sent a letter today to UNPROFOR Commander Satish Nambiar informing him that the area between Konjic and Fojnice—site of the disappearance of an Italian transport plane—is under the control of the Croat-Muslim forces.

The letter categorically denies any Serb linkage to this event and accuses the other side of downing the plane, which was carrying humanitarian aid to Sarajevo.

The Serb Republic Army command is asking Nambiar to inform the UN Security Council of their condemnation of and regret over this attack.

[Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Hercegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian at 1700 GMT on 3 September, in a Salih Hadzialic report from Visoko, reports: "Most of the day today in Visoko was somewhat calmer compared to the last few days. Enemy artillery was occasionally heard when it operated against the town center. The air-raid alarm was sounded twice. However, the situation was much more complex yesterday and last night. The town and its vicinity were shelled almost all day yesterday, which resulted in great damage to civilian and business premises." [The reporter adds: "We also have received a report that members of the army from Zenica have downed an enemy plane which fell on the territory of the commune of Fojnica."]

Karadzic Views Contribution to London Conference

LD0309204892 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1618 GMT 3 Sep 92

[Text] Pale, 3 Sep (TANJUG)—Assessing the period between the London conference and its continuation in Geneva, Radovan Karadzic, president of the Serb Republic (of BiH) [SRBH], has said that the Serb side fully contributed to the London conference and the international community's peace plans during this period. "We have concentrated our heavy weaponry in several places, around the towns singled out by the international public [as received], and made preparations for the arrival of UN observers," Karadzic said in his interview for SRBH Radio and TANJUG.

He added that the Serb side also eased the Gorazde situation by withdrawing some of its forces, but that the Muslim forces took advantage of the situation by expelling over 3,500 Serbs from this area. "We will, of course, keep our part of Gorazde, and we have done this exclusively in order to give solid support to the peace efforts," said the leader of the Bosnian Serbs.

The Muslim forces, Karadzic said, went ahead with their plan to discredit the London conference, and Alija Izetbegovic subsequently wanted to ruin the conference by launching offensives after the London meeting, for which he will have to pay by the further ruin of his own reputation and the option he is supporting.

Asked to comment on Izetbegovic's statement that freedom and not peace is what he (Izetbegovic) is interested in, Karadzic pointed out that Izetbegovic is not interested in the kind of freedom which could be achieved by negotiation, but rather by the freedom he would try to achieve by invading and dominating others, Karadzic said.

Such statements, he said, only help the Serb people remain in a state of full mobilization and prevent the kind of freedom dreamed up by Izetbegovic. For Izetbegovic, freedom means the slavery of the Serb people. Had the Muslim leadership been inclined toward peace and a just solution their freedom would have been linked with our freedom, Karadzic said.

Dwelling on the London conference, Karadzic said that the Serb side was encouraged by both its results and the bilateral meetings it had with diplomats from influential European countries.

"We now have many friends in Europe. They know precisely what is happening here and are prepared to put pressure on the bellicose Muslim side to stop its war activities. This is above all the triumph of the British and French foreign policies, and also of our truth and our feeling for justice. It has finally become clear that this is not an aggression by Serbs from Serbia, but a struggle for the defense of Serbs from Muslim domination. I also find Lawrence Eagleburger's statement encouraging—that a single Bosnia has no realistic chance—which is an indicator that the U.S. Administration understands the character of our conflict," Karadzic said.

Asked about the results of cooperation between the Serb side and the relevant international elements, Karadzic replied that there are clear signs that Europe supports such an orientation of the SRBH authorities.

"In London, we only signed those documents which we can implement without causing any damage to the Serb side, and after such moves the way in which the world views us has changed considerably to our benefit. This simply means that neither we nor the international factors wish the London conference to collapse, and we will continue to fully contribute to it It is quite certain that the moves of the Serb side will continue to find a great deal of approval among all those whose aim is to resolve the existing conflicts and attain peace through political agreements," Karadzic said.

"UNPROFOR observers will not endanger our legitimate right to defend ourselves, but they will help establish which side is constantly creating conflicts and inflicting losses," he added.

Commenting on the Muslim platform in Geneva, Karadzic warned that the negative stands of Izetbegovic's delegation are directed toward the collapse of the London conference.

Karadzic stressed: "If this happens, they will force us to adopt a course toward full independence. We have accepted the external borders of Bosnia-Hercegovina on condition that we have internal ones in order to ensure that no nation dominates. However, should this situation continue, we will not step back, but instead head for a final military victory. Everything we accepted in London has but one condition: that the war should stop. Our contribution toward it is significant, but if the Muslim side continues to fight and rejects negotiations, we shall accept the fight since we have no other choice, and in this case territorial concessions will no longer be possible."

Radovan Karadzic expressed his readiness for the Bosnian Serbs to be represented by the strongest delegation at the conference in Geneva, regardless of the kind of delegation Izetbegovic sends. This is evidence of our respect for the peace process, just as the composition of the Muslim delegation is evidence of its negative stance in relation to the conference, which the Muslim delegation is trying to undermine in all ways, Karadzic said.

"We are waiting for the group for Bosnia-Hercegovina to be formed, but Presidency member Nikola Koljevic will go in any case, and perhaps me too, depending on whether my presence in Geneva is thought to be necessary. Then we will know what kind of experts we will need there, and in this regard we will form an expert group. In any case, we have shown complete readiness for cooperation, and if it is necessary for a strong delegation to go we will go in this composition. Our stances do not change in relation to the demands of the peace process, but they could change in relation to the Muslim side if it continues the war," Radovan Karadzic said.

Karadzic Plans To 'Stop by Force' Muslims Arms

LD0309163392 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1617 GMT 3 Sep 92

[By Sarah Womack]

[Text] Militant Bosnian-Serb leader Radovan Karadzic tonight warned he was drawing up plans to "stop by force" the flow of arms which he alleged were being supplied to Muslim forces through Split and other Croatian ports.

In a letter to John Major, co-chairman of last week's London Conference, Dr Karadzic added: "This will obviously mean a renewal of engagements and the need to retake strategic positions."

His letter came as former Foreign Secretary Lord Owen and one-time U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance met at

Geneva's Palais des Nations to begin the open-ended conference on how to bring peace to former Yugoslavia.

In a press statement, Dr Karadzic said: "I am told that we will face a strategic dilemma within days which will require us to use force to halt the illegal supply of weapons if the international community does not act.

"In the event that the situation does degenerate, we will have to consider the strategic need to recapture all territories released as a measure of goodwill."

Dr Karadzic called on the prime minister to send an envoy to Geneva to meet him next week, adding: "I fear we are now only days away from a disastrous situation."

His letter to Mr Major states: "Bosnian-Muslim forces now have an increasing supply of heavy weapons which is leading to an escalation of this conflict.

"Their infantry advantage means that we are not in a position to simply ignore these developments.

"I am having to draw up plans to stop the flow of arms by force. This will obviously mean a renewal of engagements and the need to retake strategic positions."

Dr Karadzic said Mr Major and UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali must take "every measure and sanction against the government of (Bosnian) President Izetbegovic to halt this escalation".

Karadzic Reports Artillery Grouped at 10 Sites

LD0309210692 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1913 GMT 3 Sep 92

[Text] Belgrade, 3 Sep (TANJUG)—The Serb side today confirmed to Marrack Goulding, the UN special envoy for peace issues, that Serb artillery weapons are grouped at 10 sites around Sarajevo, and that tomorrow the 11th site will be opened.

Radovan Karadzic, the leader of the Bosnian Serbs, made the statement for TANJUG by telephone, stressing that UN observers have arrived at eight sites.

The sites around Bihac and Jajce will be ready to welcome UN observers very shortly, added Karadzic.

Commenting on the talks with Marrack Goulding, which began at 1730 today in the presence of Chief Commander General Satish Nambiar, Cedric Thornberry, commander of the blue helmets in Sarajevo, and Col. Davy [not further identified], Radovan Karadzic said that the atmosphere was friendly.

The Serb side confirmed its loyalty to the London conference and full cooperation with the UN Protection Force [UNPROFOR], and pledged to give all its help to the United Nations, said Karadzic. He added that the sentiments of the Serb people toward the UNPROFOR are friendly.

Radovan Karadzic briefed Marrack Goulding on what he described as information supplied by intelligence that the Croatian-Muslim coalition is preparing a new offensive, and that the Muslims have recently been receiving weapons in large quantities from abroad.

"Our side confirmed that it will fullfil its duties set out by the London conference, but only on condition that peace is achieved first. If the Muslims continue to fight there will be no territorial concessions," Radovan Karadzic said in conclusion.

Izetbegovic Comments on UN Envoy Visit

AU0409085692 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Hercegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 3 Sep 92

[Dzevdet Tuzlic report on a news conference by Alija Izetbegovic, president of Bosnia-Hercegovina, in Sarajevo on 3 September—recorded]

[Text] In the news conference that he held after meeting special UN envoy Mr. Marrack Goulding, Mr. Alija Izetbegovic, president of the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina Presidency, began by commenting the situation connected with the downing of the Italian plane carrying humanitarian aid.

[Begin recording] [Izetbegovic] According to their information, the plane crashed somewhere between Fojnica and Kiseljak. This was later corrected when they learned that the plane crashed somewhere in the region between Kiseljak and Konjic. Apparently, two helicopters and the UNPROFOR people have already arrived at the scene. We are talking about one plane with four crew members and, according to information received so far, all four have been killed.

[Unidentified reporter] Can you tell us what your talks today with Mr. Goulding were about?

[Izetbegovic] At the start of the talks, Mr. Goulding expressed, as he said, his shock, when he compared the picture of Sarajevo then and now, he said, he saw that the city had suffered horrible destruction, and that the picture was a very different one, that he was shocked by what he saw. Whether that will affect Mr. Goulding's attitude with respect to future UN measures, I cannot say now, but I want to point out that there is a certain wariness about Gorazde. When he listed these places as distribution centers where humanitarian aid will be organized, he mentioned Mostar, Sarajevo, Vitez, and then one place, as he said, between Doboj and Tuzla, then Banja Luka and Bihac. This time he missed out Gorazde [words indistinct], and he said that Gorazde would be supplied through the Sarajevo distribution center, and partly through Serbia. We, of course, insisted that Gorazde should be listed again, that this idea should be reviewed, that Gorazde is listed again as a future distribution center, and not indirectly, but directly as a center, a location for a distribution center.

Gorazde was also missed out from the list of locations for the concentration of heavy weapons. Now Mr. Goulding talks about Sarajevo, Jajce, Bihac; and Gorazde is missed out with the explanation that there is information from the other side that the forces of the Yugoslav Army, chetniks, and so on, those forces that have been attacking Gorazde, that they have withdrawn from there, so there is no need for a concentration of their weapons. We warned them that it was not so, that, true, a large part of the Gorazde commune has been liberated, and the siege has been broken on the left side of the Drina River, but the enemy is still on the right side, in the smaller part of Gorazde, but still on the right bank of the Drina River, and has been shooting at the city from there. So it is obvious that some of their information is incomplete.

[Unidentified reporter] Was there any mention of the start of the famed 96-hour countdown for removing heavy artillery from key positions held by the aggressor in Bosnia-Hercegovina, and which is endangering the lives of the civilian population of the Republic?

[Izetbegovic] Yes, one can see certain delay tactics, evasion, a slow way of solving things, like this one, when there is a critical moment, an hour for the start of the famed 96 hours, then seven days, and so on. Mr. Goulding again could not answer our question on when this countdown is supposed to begin. He said that Vance appointed him as the man to determine this, and that he could not say exactly at the moment, but I got the impression that he will when he gets back to Zagreb. So we have to wait. He returns to Zagreb late tonight. Maybe he will say more about it tomorrow. [end recording]

Croat Leader: Government 'Responsible for War'

LD0209214292 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 2 Sep 92

[Text] Mate Boban, president of the Croatian community of Herceg-Bosnia, said in an interview for today's issue of OSLOBODJENJE that the London conference should be a new initiative for ending the war and condemning the crimes. I personally think that the present Bosnia-Hercegovina leaders and government are responsible for the war in Bosnia-Hercegovina. First, because for a year and a half they were working on a daily basis with those who attacked Bosnia-Hercegovina, who committed crimes against Croats and Muslims. Second, because the government and economy of the state should have prepared the defense of the state in every possible way, Boban said. He added that this is his personal view, but it has no influence on reality since the leaders of the Croatian community of Herceg-Bosnia were not consulted even on the reconstruction of the Bosnia-Hercegovina Government.

Replying to a question about the way of filling the presently vacant position of defense minister in the Government of Bosnia-Hercegovina, Boban said that, in addition to the joint command, an administration-executive body should also be set up immediately, which would replace all kinds of authority in Bosnia-Hercegovina, and this provisional wartime body would be composed of Muslims and Croats, since the third nation is the aggressor.

Boban explained the organization of this body which, according to him, would prepare a complete war strategy for the liberation of Bosnia-Hercegovina from the occupier and would pass decrees with the force of law. It would be based on a parity principle, since the military potential of the Croatian nation in Bosnia-Hercegovina is certainly the most powerful and for this reason Croats have the right of parity, Boban said.

French Team Visit to Camps Reported

92BA1361B Belgrade VREME in Serbo-Croatian 24 Aug 92 p 24

[Article by Leon Davico: "Our Reporter in Camps of Hatred, Revenge, and Shame: The Day Kouchner Was Mad as a Wildcat"—first paragraph is VREME introduction]

[Text] "Where will you go once they release you from the camp?" the minister asks. Home, the prisoners respond. "But you no longer have a home," Kouchner remarks. "No, but we do have hands, and we will rebuild them."

The sudden intensification of the situation on Bosnian battlefields prompted France's "little Bernard," as Bernard Kouchner, the minister for health and humanitarian action, is affectionately known, to accept the invitations from the Presidency of the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina [B-H] and the Presidency of the Serb Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina to once again get on the French Government airplane and take off in the direction of troubled Bosnia. Both presidencies announced that he is welcome and that he can see any of the camps that he wishes. Moreover, Sarajevo and Pale agreed to open the gates of any camps and prisons that the opposing side chooses.

Like in Somalia

Even the events during the flight from Paris to Banja Luka were indicative of the current situation. As soon as the airplane turned away from the Italian Adriatic coast toward Split, the Zagreb control tower forbade it from flying over Croatian territory unless it landed at the Zagreb airport. In order not to lose any time, the pilot turned the plane back toward Italy, and then turned left again, toward Brindizije. Somewhere over Kotor, it established communication with Belgrade, which forbade it to fly over Yugoslav territory. The minister had had enough. Through his interpreter, he explained to air traffic control in Belgrade that he was coming at the invitation of both sides in the Bosnian conflict, that the French Embassy had informed both the Yugoslav and Serbian leadership in Belgrade of this, and he requested that the tower guide him to the B-H border. Ten minutes later, the flight was given permission, and somewhere near Sremska Mitrovica the controller told the pilot that

"you are now continuing your journey at your own risk." Fortunately, the Banja Luka tower intervened at this point and the minister's airplane was able to land at the Banja Luka airport, five hours late. Representatives of the Serbian Bosnian Presidency who had waited for him a full four hours had already gone home, so that Kouchner was met by several policemen who gave him and his entourage a ride to the Hotel "Bosna" in their police cars. There he was met by opstina president Radic, who told him, over dinner, that in his opstina the Orthodox, who are in the majority, continue to live in peace with their Muslim and Catholic neighbors.

But if this is the case in this green oasis, where the illusory peace is being felt and the consumption of electric power has been reduced, then it is not the case in the nearby Prijedor opstina, where on the following day Kouchner visited the military camp in Manjaca, the transit camp in Omarska, and, finally, Trnopolje, an open-type camp. Despite the cordiality of the commander of the Manjaca military complex, which before the war was one of the biggest JNA [Yugoslav People's Army] tank centers, and the freedom with which the French guests were able to visit the former stables filled with Muslims from Kljuc, Prijedor, and other nearby towns, the impression given was a bad one. "Why don't you photograph this fat one, why only the thin ones?" the camp commander asked angrily. The problem was that the vast majority were thin and frightened. Some of the prisoners looked as if it were not even necessary to complain that someone had beaten them, while the camp clinic in which 20 patients lay on a little straw and one blanket reminded the minister of similar medical facilities in wretched Somalia. There we also found a Yugoslav-Canadian with a broken leg, who alleged that the post of minister of information had been offered to him in Croatia. Born in Edmonton and speaking excellent English, he responded quietly when asked what he had come looking for in Yugoslavia: "C'est la vie."

According to information from the minister's discussion partners, three Libyans had been shot the day before, while a week earlier three blacks had been killed in combat. "These are not concentration camps in the sense of Auschwitz," the minister remarked, "but this place is not fit for human beings." Aware that neither the armed forces nor the local population have enough food, the minister spoke out in favor of at least the bare minimum that the prisoners, according to their own statements, were receiving 10 days earlier. There are no gas chambers at the Manjaca camp, but there are land mines along the barbed wire surrounding the camp. The only wish of the armed forces responsible for order in the camp is that no one should escape from it. The only wish of the prisoners, who have the right to leave their shacks, is that they survive.

The next stop was Omarska, which has also been described as a concentration camp. Located in one of the administrative buildings of a former strip-mining operation, around 200 prisoners—primarily Muslims, most of them looking good—are waiting here for investigators who will decide whether to let them go home or send them to Manjaca or elsewhere. They are housed in a large room with bunk beds, and they respond in one voice that they have not been subjected to torture.

From there, taking a detour around Banja Luka, the French team set out for Trnopolje, a semiopen camp from which women and children were transported toward the Croatian border and who are assumed to be on one of the trains headed for Austria and Germany. The prisoners have had no news from them. As the team arrived at the camp, a lunch of beans was being served. "It's good," the young camp detainees say, "but not enough." They must pay to get bread, and if they have the money they can also buy the rare potato or hot meal prepared by a detainee in the middle of the camp. Two buildings are overflowing with people; there are others in the yard where they themselves have erected simple huts similar to those in Ethiopian and Somali camps. It is tolerable as long as the summer sun is there, but what will they do once winter comes?

Here in Trnopolje, where the regime is supposedly less rigid than at Manjaca, a human tragedy multiplied by several thousand is being played out. These are the residents of Kozarac, a suburb of Prijedor, where all the Muslim homes were destroyed or seriously damaged. Muslim ones, because the others that belong to Serbs, even when they are two meters away, stand intact, pretty and flourishing. "Where will you go once they release you from the camp?" the minister asks. Home, the prisoners respond. "But you no longer have a home," Kouchner remarks. "No, but we do have hands, and we will rebuild them." They have no response to the next question: whether they will ever be able to live with their former neighbors, who in many cases helped in the destruction of their homes or removed and carried off beds, refrigerators, and other household furnishings. Although they have the right to go to the town to bring flour or potatoes, it is rare that anyone dares to leave the camp, because some people have never returned from walks.

All three camps were on the list that the French minister received from the Presidency of the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina in Sarajevo. He also wanted to visit Kalinovik, where according to allegations by the Bosnian authorities around 150 women and children are imprisoned at an elementary school and subjected to terror, but he was not able to do so because he would have needed an escort by the "blue helmets," of which there are none in the Banja Luka and Prijedor area.

At "Viktor Bubanj" Barracks

By way of Split, where he spent the night, and after yet another problem with the Belgrade control tower, Bernard Kouchner took off on a French Tranzal-type transport aircraft for Sarajevo, where he was met by the French "blue" Col. Davo [as published] with two armored vehicles. After a short meeting with republican Vice President Kljuic, who opened the doors to all the

facilities that the minister wanted to visit, the diplomats and journalists left for the former pride of the Olympics, today the horribly damaged Zetre Palace, and for Kosevo, the soccer stadium overgrown in grass, where the camp for Sarajevo's Serbs is located, according to the Serbian-Bosnian Presidency. Aside from two or three families from nearby high-rises, who are waiting here for a time when they will not be bombarded, no signs of life were found here. From there they went to Central Prison and spoke with prisoners, Serbs and Muslims, whose stories were moving, but who did not complain of poor treatment. Here Kouchner also spoke with a former JNA colonel sentenced to six months for weapon possession. But the prison was clean, in front of each cell was a pail of water (the water supply does not work), and one did not get the impression that the prisoners, most of them accused of or sentenced for weapon charges, are being treated poorly.

The scene at the military prison at the former "Viktor Bubanj" Barracks of the Yugoslav armed forces was completely different. Here the people—Serbs—resembled the skeletal Muslims at Manjaca. No one even attempted to hide the bruises and wounds that were the obvious results of beatings. There were 12 prisoners in each cell measuring four square meters, among them a surgeon from the military hospital who had refused to join the Bosnia-Hercegovian Territorial Defense, four engineers.... On the next floor up, several rooms, more spacious and brighter, with windows, for the women. Here there were both old and young women, one pregnant woman, her mother-in-law in another room, her husband down below in a cell. When Kouchner remarked that the people looked bad and that they had been beaten, the prison administrator responded that perhaps they had been beaten up during transport, but not while in the prison. The wounds were fresh; Kouchner is a doctor. He was as mad as a wildcat.

Also on his list was Bradina and its railroad tunnel where, according to information from the Serbian side, several hundred prisoners are being held. It is not possible to go there, but not because of some sort of prohibition, but simply because of the war. There is fighting going on. New prisoners are being captured. And since there is a war being fought, with hatred and without pardons, then that is how captives are treated as well. The last bridges toward the future are being destroyed. New generations are learning at an accelerated pace that which our generation had almost forgotten. Here, across the mountain, is Jasenovac, our driver explained to us in northern Bosnia. Is it possible that we are on the way to creating new Jasenovaces? After everything that we have experienced!

Before returning, two seriously wounded children were put on board the Red Cross military transporter, children whom the shells did not ask about their religion. The Orthodox child had shrapnel in his head, the Muslim one had third-degree burns. Their mothers held them in their arms while UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force] soldiers, obeying utterly unreasonable orders from the High Commissioner in Geneva, asked them where they came from. No civilians are allowed to leave Sarajevo by air! Fortunately, a representative of the Norwegian Government was also here, a friend of Bernard Kouchner, and he intervened with a Norwegian member of UNPROFOR.

Forty minutes later, the big airplane landed at the Split airport, where a special airplane of the French Republic was waiting for him. Just a few minutes later, the white bird took off for Paris, where an ambulance was already waiting for the bodies from Sarajevo at the Vilekuble military airport. Kouchner was met by journalists, who learned that there are still no concentration camps in Yugoslavia like Bergen-Belsen, but that there are camps of hatred, camps of revenge, and camps of shame.

Minister Departs for Geneva Conference

LD0309090392 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 2 Sep 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Zdenko Skrabalo left for Geneva today, where he will attend the continuation of the London peace conference. At the first meeting of the coordination committee of senior officials, which was set up on the basis of the action program adopted at the London conference and is co-presided over by Cyrus Vance and Lord David Owen, the methods of work of the six working groups will be adopted. The first meeting of the working group for humanitarian issues is due to take place on 4 September. In Geneva, Minister Skrabalo is expected to meet Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen individually.

Conference Proposes Special Status for Serbs

AU0309182392 Zagreb VECERNJI LIST in Serbo-Croatian 28 Aug 92 p 2

[B.T. report: "Pupovac For Special Status For Serbs"]

[Text] Parallel to the peace conference at the King's Congress Center, an alternative conference is being held several streets away at which Petar Lukovic, reporter for the Belgrade magazine VREME, is claiming that Dr. Tudjman cannot represent all Croats in the same way that Milosevic cannot represent all Serbs. The intention behind this is obvious: Equate Tudjman and Milosevic, and then persuade the international community to impose equal measures on the two republics, which would in turn bring into power forces that would—restore Yugoslavia?!

Milorad Pupovac, chairman of the Serbian Democratic Forum, and Ivo Skrabalo, member of the Croatian Social Liberal Party [HSLS], are among the participants from Croatia.

"The problem with minorities in Croatia boils down to the problem of territory," Pupovac claims. "Every group that is not in control of the area is in a difficult position, since it has to be loyal and unified with the majority. The Serbs in Croatia are not given enough room for autonomous organization into ethnic communities and political groups. We have a party (the Serbian National Party), which has been organized by the Croatian Democratic Community as a puppet party, while the 13 Serbian representatives in the parliament have been appointed, not elected," Pupovac claims in London.

He proposes that Serbs in and outside the Krajinas should find a solution within the Croatian borders and the Croatian state. They should have a special, internationally-guaranteed status and the internal right to self-determination, thinks Pupovac, who is presented in London as "the man who might go on trial just because he has expressed some fear that Serbs in Croatia are oppressed."

Veton Surroi, a participant in the conference from Kosovo, rejects this assessment.

"It is not true," Surroi says, "because Pupovac can only be put on trial as an individual, just like any Croat could."

HSLS representative Ivo Skrabalo says that Serbs in Croatia should have all their rights guaranteed but, at the same time, the Croats have to rest assured that Croatia will not be a confederation of Croats and 12 percent Serbs with veto power.

Unemployment Figures Define Economic Prospects

AU0309075692 Zagreb NOVI VJESNIK in Serbo-Croatian 28 Aug 92 p 7

[Goranka Juresko report: "Hard Winter Awaiting"]

[Text] Zagreb—The social map of Croatia is alarming. According to information from the 1991 census, 4,760,344 people lived in Croatia then, and the latest information has it that only 1,297,429 people are employed, while at the same time 757,132 pensions have to be paid out every month. Also, the number of people living on welfare has risen from 180,000 to 204,133, and one should not forget the 700,000 displaced people and refugees, and the 63,000 beneficiaries of the protection of army and civilian invalids of war.

All in all, over 1,700,000 people directly depend on 1,300,000 employed people, whose average salary does not exceed DM150.

The particularly worrying fact is that over 60 percent of the applications for the so-called social minimum, the purpose of which is the protection of living standards of the socially endangered population, are from people who fall under the category of able for work. All this information tells us that the Croatian Government will have to take urgently measures to increase the number of the employed—both by increasing production and by stimulating self-employment.

In order to do that, it is vital to change some legal regulations, and adjust them to the new situation. The monetary, tax, and customs systems should primarily be in the function of productive employment and private enterprise. If that does not happen, then despite the fact that humanitarian aid is still coming from abroad, the perspective is not in the least bit rosy.

The newly elected assembly representatives, who are starting their mandates in a very "hot" fashion, will put forward their proposals as to how to solve the Gordian knot of social troubles at the next Assembly session.

Recent Assassinations Viewed; Ministers Targeted

AU0309124192 Zagreb NOVI VJESNIK in Serbo-Croatian 28 Aug 92 p 21

[Stane Pucko report: "Assassination Plans Prepared for Kucan, Drnovsek, and Bavcar"]

[Text] Ljubljana—An affair of vast political dimensions has suddenly broken out in Slovenia. The extreme political organization, the Slovene National Party led by Zmago Jelincic, found itself under police investigation. On 27 August, the party held a congress, but several of its leaders were missing.

Meanwhile, the Internal Affairs Ministry has issued a statement to the effect that, at the request of the public prosecutor, and based on the findings of investigating judges, the Ministry has undertaken the investigation of certain individuals justifiably suspected of carrying out serious criminal acts against public security, of participating in the production and procurement of weapons and contraptions for carrying out criminal acts, of producing and trading explosives, and of illegal trade with weapons.

In Celje, Kranj, Ljubljana and Maribor, 18 people are under investigation. It has been established that, during various periods and in various places, the accused have been preparing, or indeed have already committed serious crimes that endangered the safety of people and property. The statement from the Ministry of Internal Affairs claims that Zmago Jelincic is among those implicated in the said crimes.

According to information from other sources, Jelincic and his associates have been preparing plans for the assassination of Milan Kucan, Janez Drnovsek, and Igor Bavcar.

There have been several assassinations in Slovenia recently—explosive devices have been placed in cars. These assassinations remain unsolved.

IMF Official Sees 'No Obstacles' to Membership

92BA1349B Ljubljana DELO in Slovene 19 Aug 92 p 1

[Article by Romana Dobnikar-Seruga: "There Are No Longer Any Obstacles to Slovenia's Membership in the IMF"—first paragraph is DELO introduction]

[Text] IMF Executive Director Posthumus thinks that the door to the IMF could even open for Slovenia in September.

Ljubljana, 18 Aug—I hope that we will be able to finish the procedure for Slovenia's admission to the IMF before the IMF and World Bank session, which will be during the last week in September, stated Godert A. Posthumus, a member of the IMF's Board of Executive Directors, at a press conference after ending a two-day visit to Slovenia. He affirmed that there were no obstacles to Slovenia's membership, particularly not political ones; it is instead merely a matter of a lengthy procedure.

As is customary in the procedure for admission, the candidate for membership asks one of the IMF executive directors to represent its case. Slovenia asked Dutch Executive Director Godert A. Posthumus to do so; on the Board of Executive Directors, he represents the so-called Dutch group of members, which also includes, in addition to his own state, Romania, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, and the former Yugoslavia, and is also to be joined by Ukraine, Moldova, and Georgia. As the IMF guest stated, it is not necessary for Slovenia to remain in that group, since as a member it will be able to give its vote to any other executive director.

The Dutch executive director met during the past two days with Deputy Prime Minister Herman Rigelnik, Minister of Finance Mitja Gaspari, Bank of Slovenia Governor France Arhar, and the vice president of the Slovene Chamber of Commerce, Josip Skoberne. In particular, he explained in detail to his interlocutors the procedure for admission to the IMF, and assured them that he would try to do everything possible to speed it up.

The IMF sent its mission to Slovenia back in June, and another one is to come soon. The necessary documentation is in preparation, on the basis of which the Board of Executive Directors will propose a set quota for Slovenia, the final decision on which will be made by the Board of Governors, which currently consists of 170 representatives of the member states. As Godert A. Posthumus stated, the IMF is assessing Slovenia's financial and economic strength on the basis of data from the years 1980-84, when Slovenia was still part of the SFRY, so that the data will be comparable.

Posthumus warned that he did not expect any particular visible changes with admission to the IMF, since a considerable part of the IMF's activity is advising national governments (they can follow its advice or not), which is confidential in nature. "There is also the possibility of short-term financial support within the framework of a specific program, but we expect that Slovenia will not need such assistance," he said. In his opinion, membership in the IMF is particularly important because it is a condition for membership in the World Bank, which is an important loan provider, and because the state will thus become part of the international financial community, which is important for the confidence of the commercial banks.

Federal

Panic Assesses International, Domestic Scene

LD0309162492 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1340 GMT 3 Sep 92

[Excerpts] Belgrade, 3 Sep (TANJUG)—Federal Prime Minister Milan Panic told a news conference in Belgrade today that it is just a matter of time until Yugoslavia is respected again on the international scene. [passage omitted]

Panic said that so far the government has made 20 moves "which will help Yugoslavia come out of these misfortunes." He first specified that the Bosnian Serbs agreed yesterday that they will place their heavy weapons under UN supervision in 11 positions.

The Federal Government is trying to halt ethnic cleansing, Panic said and cited as a specific example the village of Kozarac.

He then announced that he is going to Kosovo on 5 September for talks with representatives of Albanian parties. [passage omitted]

The London conference is another chance which the world has given to us "to return to normal, and my government is firmly committed to achieving this," Panic said.

Asked to comment on inaccurate foreign media reporting about the situation in the former Yugoslavia, Panic said: "It is true that we have no public relations program. Croatia has invested $17 million in this and we have invested nothing. They have won the media war, but we will change things." "We have nothing to hide. Yugoslav policies are open, we are not afraid and believe that the world will accept us," Panic stressed.

Asked who really submitted the no-confidence motion in the Federal Government and whether changes are feasible with "the old guard," Panic said that democracy is a slow process which must be respected but it can also be abused.

Noting that the entire story is "of little import" as far as he is concerned, the premier stressed that he is proud of the results of the London conference.

"I am not one of those people who give up easily," Panic said as he announced a showdown with "the old team" which, he said, has lost all its matches so far. The old guard cannot stay on, the premier added and said that "this is what you do in soccer too."

The question of how plans to get rid of "the old guard" prompted Panic's brief reply: "By fighting."

Panic did not want to comment on whether the initiative to submit a no-confidence motion in his government was a consequence of his sacking of Deputy Interior Minister Mihail Kertes. He said that he will not speak of "the politically dead."

In response to a question, Panic said that Foreign Minister Vladislav Jovanovic "will not be on the Geneva team."

The next question was how will you defend yourself in parliament. Panic said he had no intention to defend himself, but instead he would attack with the truth, which always won.

"We have had enough lies, jokes, and swindles. We have to see our reflection in the mirror and come to terms with who and what we are, so we do not pretend that we are the best and infallible."

Panic said that in recent days he had enjoyed a great deal of support from citizens as well as from foreign countries. His message, though, was that he did not need any support from the street.

"I know that students support me," Panic said and called on them to stay at home and not to gather outside the Assembly of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, "since today we need peace and calmness."

Panic's message for the students was: "If need be, I will call on you." He added that "I want an intelligent fight against those who want to fight, or else an intelligent strategy so there will be no fight."

Asked whether Slobodan Milosevic and Borisav Jovic initiated the motion of no confidence in the government, Panic said that they should be asked the question.

"This is really not important. These are parliamentarian affairs; let me handle this myself," Panic said noting that "he does not need help."

Panic's response to the question what is your comment on the support of Montenegro's deputies to the Federal Assembly was brief: "Clever people."

Panic then reiterated why he was talking about recognition of "Tito's borders," by noting they were drawn in pencil and that once there was a peace they could perhaps be legally changed.

Asked whether he had Federal Army support, Panic said: "Yes, I am the defense minister after all. I have often been in contact with the Army and I can sense whether or not someone supports me. I believe the entire Army supports me."

In the name of peace in the area of the former Yugoslavia, Panic backtracked on his statement whereby he recently demanded the resignation of Slovene President Milan Kucan, although he personally maintains that Kucan should take that step on his own accord. He agreed, however, with the international community's stance that there should be no more "fighting." At the same time one should work on peace and cooperation with all the neighbors and former Yugoslav republics.

Asked about prisoner exchanges according to "the all-for-all principle," Panic noted that "there is a war,

people are dying, but the best thing this nation can do is to honor the dead by fighting for peace rather than by waging wars."

Commenting on the possibility of confrontations within Serbia, Panic said "this is not realistic," and added that his government was uprooting the causes of the problems. "I do not give you a fish but teach you how to catch it," Panic stated.

Panic then promised that "there will certainly be a free press and freedom of political word in Yugoslavia because Milan Panic is going to work on this."

Asked whether he had made any mistakes, Panic said: "I have just thought, for a split second, that I am a genuine Serb who never errs. Of course, there has been a considerable number of mistakes but they have to a great extent been outnumbered by good moves."

Pressure on Panic in London Examined

LD0109184992 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1544 GMT 1 Sep 92

[Article by Bozidar Francuski: "Serbian Roulette"—"pool" item]

[Text] Belgrade, September 1 (TANJUG)—Yugoslav Prime Minister Milan Panic, with his unheard-of style in Yugoslavia over the past 50 years, has had to cause commotion among the people, who see him as a dim hope for some kind of future. However, Panic's appearance and style disturbed the people's representatives even more. The prime minister is criticized for holding "private talks" in London and agreeing to accept arrangements about which the public has not been informed.

Despite extensive reporting from the London conference, it seems that the leaders of parties which now demand Panic's recall have missed several very important points. First, the fact that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia did not have much of a choice in London. It could either accept all conditions (ultimatums) set by the world or else.... Reliable sources in London said the "or else" stood for a military intervention which would have begun the very moment the Yugoslav delegation rejected the demands.

It is not clear why the "well-experienced conference goers" in Yugoslavia failed to note the prime minister's statement that all important issues are settled prior to the conference (in London) and the fact that Panic arrived in London two days before the conference. It would be naive to expect to hear the voice of Yugoslavia amidst the threatening chorus at the conference itself, no matter how wise and peaceloving Panic might be.

Secondly, U.S. Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger's statement about "billions of Muslims whose interests the United States must have in mind" seems to have been overlooked. The statement in fact means that the U.S. was supporting the Islamic countries in their effort to create an Islamic state in Bosnia-Hercegovina. The U.S. support had in mind hundreds of billions of petro dollars invested in the Western economy.

In this context, it would be useless to believe there could be a serious discussion about the problems and interests of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia at the conference. The mighty ones decided about their utmost interests and Yugoslavia's demands for truth or justice could have had no influence.

Prime Minister Panic seems to have understood all this and managed to achieve the maximum—the sanctions were not stepped up and the draft declaration on Serbia remained only a draft....

A Serbian opposition party described the motion for taking a vote of no confidence in Panic as a "resumption of Russian roulette in which the gun is aimed at both the head and the future of the Serbian people." The game would be better described as "Serbian roulette"—as yet unknown to the world. In it, the gun is fully loaded and one hopes for the bullets to misfire.

Government Seeks Peace in Bosnia 'at All Costs'

LD0309163992 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1554 GMT 03 Sep 92

[Text] Vienna, 3 Sep (TANJUG)—The Government of Yugoslav Prime Minister Milan Panic is determined at all costs to secure peace in the war-torn former Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina, Yugoslav Minister Without Portfolio Radmila Milentijevic told a news conference in Vienna on Thursday [3 September].

Milentijevic, who arrived on a brief unofficial visit to Austria on Wednesday, told the news conference she had been denied any contacts with representatives of the Austrian foreign ministry.

The government of Mr. Panic is trying to establish dialogue with all countries which can help resolve the crisis on the territory of the former Yugoslavia. Austria is a small country but is, as a neighbour, an important partner in the resolution of that crisis, Milentijevic said.

Milentijevic said she recently visited Washington, Ottawa and Paris and found an open door everywhere.

A solution for an end to the war in Bosnia-Hercegovina must be found through negotiations of the three peoples—Serbs, Croats and Muslims—because an ethnic war is involved in Bosnia-Hercegovina and not an external aggression, as the foreign press, including the Austrian, likes to present it, singling out Serbia as the aggressor, the Yugoslav minister without portfolio said.

Milentijevic said she was pleased with the work and outcome of the recent London Conference on Yugoslavia. She said British Prime Minister John Major had a fair attitude towards all sides involved in the conflict.

We are pleased also with the stand of France and a number of other countries, but not with that of Austria, which sought arms for Bosnia-Hercegovina and called for a military intervention, Milentijevic said.

The Yugoslav minister without portfolio urged Austrian journalists to cover the developments on the territory of the former Yugoslavia more objectively. Milentijevic said that incorrect reporting was very obvious in the case of the issue of "ethnic cleansing."

Ethnic cleansing is carried out by all three sides involved in the conflict in Bosnia-Hercegovina, and only the Serbs are accused of it, Milentijevic said.

What is not known or is intentionally forgotten is that ethnic cleansing was started by Croatia in Western Slavonia late last year. Around 180 Serbian villages in that region were burned down and 70,000 Serbs disappeared. The same has happened now in Mostar in Bosnia-Hercegovina, (a town) which is under the occupation of Croatia's regular army units. 20,000 Serbs have been driven out, Milentijevic said.

Serbia

Milosevic Promises Help to CSCE Missions

LD0309184392 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1731 GMT 3 Sep 92

[Text] Belgrade, September 3 (TANJUG)—In the talks on Thursday with a CSCE mission, led by Sir John Thompson, a British representative, Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic said that Serbia would give all the help CSCE missions may need to carry out their tasks and role.

A statement on today's talks stressed the importance of the U.N.'s active participation in establishing a stable peace in the war-torn former Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

A statement also said that in today's talks a hope was expressed that international factors would take an objective stand in the interest of peace and a just solution of the Yugoslav crisis.

Sir Thompson informed Milosevic on the impressions the CSCE mission got during its tour of the war affected areas in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

The statement also said that today's talks underlined the importance of an objective presentation of the situation, to which CSCE missions should contribute.

Macedonia

Assembly Hears VMRO Criticize Gligorov

AU0309143892 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 3 Sep 92

[Boris Djordjioski report from Skopje]

[Text] The debate in the Assembly is in its second day on whether a new government is to be elected. VMRO [Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization] is against, and the other parties are in favor of the election.

VMRO has been presenting its arguments again today, or what passes for arguments there: that the unconstitutional president of this Republic, Kiro Gligorov, abused his position by giving the mandate to form a government twice to the same party, which he is a member of. The communists want power at any cost, and by forming a government together with the Albanians they are preparing for treason, a national conspiracy against Macedonia. Gligorov wants to destroy the only Macedonian party, and that, of course, is VMRO. The underground world, traps, scenarios, barroom talk, and backstage games—VWRO does not hesitate in its choice of words of accusation aimed at both the head of this republic and the others from the Social Democratic Party.

It all resembles a mixed public washing of the dirty and the clean laundry, so in its attempt to be as convincing as possible VMRO comes off as very unconvincing. For example, the outgoing foreign minister, who has been proposed for a post in the new government, is being criticized for having been seen chewing bubble-gum in London.

The situation in the Assembly would be comic were it not all too serious. It speaks of a significant polarization of forces, of the inability of the parties to come to an agreement even when Macedonia's interests are at stake and possibly its very existence. Narrow party interests are that strong. Such is the zeal for party interests, so obvious are the party games, maneuvers, and futile battles of wits, that one deputy felt compelled to say that the best thing that could happen would be if the Macedonian people took a large broom and swept out the Assembly.

The marathon debate on whether the agenda will be adopted with only one point—election of a new government—continues.